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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-third session

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
30 June – 10 July 2019

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

5C: *World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development*

SUMMARY

By Decision **41 COM 5C**, the World Heritage Committee welcomed the progress made in disseminating the “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention”, adopted by the 20th General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2015), and in mainstreaming it into statutory processes, international policies and operational activities, and requested this effort be pursued.

This document presents the progress made in implementing the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (WH-SDP) since the 41st session of the Committee (Kraków, 2017).

Draft Decision: 43 COM 5C, see point IV

I. BACKGROUND

1. By Decision **40 COM 5C** (Istanbul, 2016), the World Heritage Committee welcomed the adoption of the “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention” by the 20th General Assembly of States Parties (Resolution **20 GA 13**; UNESCO, 2015). The text of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (WH-SDP) can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/>.
2. Further to Resolution **20 GA 13** and Decision **40 COM 5C**, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies reported to the Committee at its 40th and 41st sessions, progress made in the follow-up activities, aimed at ensuring the effective integration of the sustainable development perspective into the processes of the Convention as well as in operational activities and supporting Members States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. By Decisions **40 COM 5C** and **41 COM 5C**, the World Heritage Committee welcomed progress made by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in disseminating the WH-SDP and mainstreaming it into statutory processes, international policies and operational activities. The Committee invited UNESCO and all parties to identify and make visible the many ways in which the implementation of the World Heritage Convention contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and called upon States Parties to ensure that sustainable development principles are mainstreamed into their national processes related to World Heritage and integrated at the level of local communities and indigenous peoples, in full respect of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties.

II. PROGRESS ACHIEVED

4. Since the 41st session of the Committee (Kraków, 2017), the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have pursued efforts to integrate the sustainable development perspective into activities and processes of the Convention, in accordance with the WH-SDP, harnessing synergies with the States Parties’ engagement and efforts towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Document 5D on the Committee’s agenda considers World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa.

World Heritage and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5. In support of the Member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO continues to promote the role of culture for sustainable development. The biennium work plan 39 C/5 for 2018-2020 included a transversal mapping of the Culture Conventions’ contributions across the 17 SDGs and 169 Targets, and a cross cutting Expected Result ER 8: “Culture integrated into policies and measures at the national and local levels by Member States for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
6. A publication was developed “Culture for the 2030 Agenda” (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/flipbook/culture-2030/en/>, available in English, French and Spanish) to illustrate with brief case studies the ways the Culture Conventions, including the World Heritage Convention, contribute to the various SDGs in different regions of the world.
7. During the June 2018 High-Level Political Forum in New York on Sustainable Development, UNESCO organised a special event with the Group of Friends of Culture and Development, a coalition of some 30 countries created as a pioneering mechanism

in 2013 to promote the importance of culture for sustainable development, who reaffirmed their commitment to culture in the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda for sustainable development at both the national and local levels. (<https://en.unesco.org/news/group-friends-coalition-culture-sustainable-development-convened-new-york>).

8. Following the reorganization of the Culture Sector, a special entity *Cultural Policies and Development* has been created to coordinate the work on the 2030 Agenda across all Culture programmes and Conventions, including the World Heritage Convention, in coordination with other Sectors. UNESCO's flagship activities are compiled under a dedicated website (<https://en.unesco.org/themes/culture-sustainable-development>), and have included *inter alia* the organization of the third UNWTO/UNESCO Global Conference on Tourism and Culture in December 2018.
9. The World Heritage Centre, through the World Heritage Cities Thematic Programme, took part in UNESCO's contribution to **SDG 11**: "Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". A special training session for city change-makers on "Leveraging diversity and culture, shaping cities for all" was organized by UNESCO Culture Sector in February 2018 as part of the World Urban Forum 9 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-habitat-build-case-culture-and-sustainable-cities-world-urban-forum>). City representatives from the historic city of Bologna on the World Heritage List were one of three cities that presented their experience and efforts in the session. By Decision **42 COM 5A**, the Committee acknowledged the crucial importance of the World Heritage Cities Programme for the conservation of the urban heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List, for the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) and its contribution to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals related to cities as well as for its contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
10. As a co-custodian agency for the **SDG 11**, UNESCO contributed to the Goal 11 synthesis report "Tracking Progress Towards Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements" presented to the 2018 High Level Political Forum (https://www.un-ilibrary.org/economic-and-social-development/tracking-progress-towards-inclusive-safe-resilient-and-sustainable-cities-and-human-settlements_36ff830e-en). The report also included ways that culture and cultural heritage contribute to other goals and indicators.
11. Building resilience and partnership for responding to disasters and conflicts are at the core of the 2030 Agenda, and important components of the WH-SDP. A joint publication by UNESCO and the World Bank entitled "Culture in City Reconstruction and Recovery" was launched in March 2019, aiming to support development practitioners, national and local authorities, and international organizations in integrating culture in all phases of post-conflict, post-disaster and post-crisis city reconstruction and recovery. It presents the Culture in City Reconstruction and Recovery (CURE) Framework, a culture-based approach to city recovery that accounts for the needs, values and priorities of communities (<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-world-bank-use-culture-building-back-better-after-conflict-and-disasters-cities>). UNESCO and ICCROM have also continued their partnership on the First Aid for Cultural Heritage initiative to train cultural heritage experts on the rescue of culture in emergencies, with a training course organised in Bamako, Mali in November 2018 funded by UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund (<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-iccrom-boost-global-network-cultural-first-aiders-trained-rescue-culture-emergencies>).

National and local actions towards the SDGs

12. Decision **41 COM 5C** called to make visible the many ways in which the implementation of the World Heritage Convention contributes to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 11, 14 and 15. It should be recalled that the World Heritage Convention is instrumental to meeting the target **11.4**. to “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”, and therefore all the activities under the Convention contribute to meeting this target. It is important to recall that the World Heritage Convention is the only international legal instrument which integrates nature and culture. The protection of natural heritage is an indispensable underpinning of sustainable development and it is only through the better integration of culture and nature that the SDGs can be achieved. The Committee’s document 5A (see Performance Indicator 4: SDGs and Sustainable Development) refers to a number of projects that contribute to the SDGs. The contributions to the SDGs and the implementation of the WH-SDP are closely aligned, although the World Heritage Centre recognises the importance of defining the synergies and overlaps more clearly.
13. The World Heritage Centre carried out a UNESCO Member State implementation survey on the HUL 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL) from February to September 2018. 55 Member States submitted their national reports. The full analytical report is available on the website of the Recommendation (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul/> in both English and French). About 60 % of the respondents reported that they have integrated urban conservation policies into the SDGs, while more than 70 percent of the respondents have made the New Urban Agenda operational. However, they also pointed out the need for better knowledge, planning, assessment, and community engagement tools and guidance for their implementation. The results of the survey were presented to the 206th Session of the Executive Board, which called for reinforcing integration with the 2030 Agenda, **SDG 11** in particular, and the New Urban Agenda. The HUL approach also contributed to ongoing work on Thematic Indicators for Culture in the SDGs, for measuring the role of culture in the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.
14. In Latin America and the Caribbean, seminars and national meetings have encouraged the participation of individuals and local governments in implementation of HUL. A pioneering methodology for citizen implementation of the Recommendation was presented in the City of Puebla’s “Smart City Expo LATAM Congress WeGov: Ciudadania y Gobierno para el Bien Común”.
15. In the Arab States region, since February 2018, a particular focus is given to the development of UNESCO’s flagship Initiative “Revive the Spirit of Mosul” (<https://en.unesco.org/projects/the-spirit-of-mosul>), supported by the Government of Iraq and the UN Secretary-General. This initiative was presented at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee during a side event on 30 June 2018 and at UNESCO HQ on 10 September 2018.
16. With a view to contributing to the **SDG 13** “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, a progress on updating of the Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties is presented in Document 7 on the Committee’s agenda.
17. Contributing to the **SDG 14** “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, the World Heritage Marine Programme organized a first workshop on “Solutions to reduce plastic waste and marine litter across World Heritage marine sites” hosted by the “Wadden Sea” World Heritage property (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) from 14-16 November 2018. A high-level delegation

from Belize also visited the “Great Barrier Reef” (Australia) from 26-30 November 2018, to discuss sustainable marine tourism.

18. Supportive of **SDG Target 8.9** “devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products”, the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme has developed trans-European itineraries linking iconic and lesser-known World Heritage sites under four themes: ‘Romantic Europe’, ‘Ancient Europe’, ‘Royal Europe’ and ‘Underground Europe’. This project, supported by the European Union, aims to increase sustainable tourism at World Heritage sites, while encouraging visitors to stay longer and support local culture and the creative industries (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/875>).
19. Contributing to **SDG Target 12.B** to “develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”, the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism programme has been testing a Visitor Management Assessment Tool in Luang Prabang (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) in collaboration with German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) and the University of Western Sydney. Results were presented to government authorities in Vientiane and will enable World Heritage site managers to assess tourism management according to a set of social, economic and environmental indicators, linked to the SDGs.
20. Together with other biodiversity-related conventions, the World Heritage Centre contributes to the development of the Post-2020 biodiversity framework, promoting its alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Biodiversity-related targets are present in several SDGs, including in **SDGs 14 and 15** (“Life below water” and “Life on land”). Building on the outcomes of the UNESCO Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity, the World Heritage Centre, together with UNESCO’s other biodiversity and culture programmes, is also contributing to the establishment of a multi-partner International Alliance on Nature and Culture. In this context, it should be noted that by Decision **41 COM 7** the Committee highlighted the importance of promoting integrated approaches for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage that strengthen holistic governance, improve conservation outcomes and contribute to sustainable development, requesting these efforts be continued and expanded in accordance with the WH-SDP.

Development of indicators for culture in the 2030 Agenda

21. To monitor **SDG Goal 11 Target 4**, which aims to “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is developing the methodology for Indicator 11.4.1, as a new globally-comparable indicator that reflects the total amount per capita each country spends to protect their cultural and natural heritage. It will include public and private sources of expenditure, including investments made at the local, national and international levels, alone or in partnership with civil society organizations. To produce this indicator, the Institute has developed a new survey.
22. UNESCO’s Culture Sector has also continued the development of a complementary framework and suite of *Thematic Indicators for Culture in the 2030 Agenda* (Culture|2030 Indicators). Two international expert meetings were organized in September 2017 and January 2018 to discuss this framework and the detailed methodology for each of the indicators, refined with online consultations. A Member State Consultation during May-June 2019 will help to further develop and strengthen the Culture|2030 Indicators prior to the first phase of implementation. The Thematic Indicators measure the contribution of heritage and creativity, including cultural and

natural heritage, to sustainable development. As the implementation of the World Heritage Convention contributes significantly to several of the SDGs and the Convention Periodic Reports contribute to the construction of some of the Culture|2030 Indicators, this framework forms a good basis for developing an indicator tool to support the implementation of the WH-SDP at World Heritage sites. The thematic indicators would be implemented on demand to help countries and cities enhance their work on culture and heritage towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Mainstreaming of the WH-SDP into the World Heritage Convention processes

Policy compendium

23. The WH-SDP, as one of the major policies of the World Heritage Convention, is adequately reflected in the World Heritage Policy Compendium, which will be presented to the Committee, at its 43rd session in Baku.

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

24. One of the major revisions of the *Operational Guidelines* at the forthcoming 43rd session concerns the mainstreaming of the principles of the WH-SDP into the *Guidelines*, as requested by both the Committee and the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, in their respective Decision **39 COM 5D** and Resolution **20 GA 13**. It is recalled that it had been decided by the Committee in the past that general revisions of the *Operational Guidelines* will take place at four-year intervals, and the last such revision had taken place at the 39th session in Bonn, Germany.

Periodic Reporting Exercise

25. Following the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting Reflection (2015-2017), the Committee approved by Decision **41 COM 10A** (Kraków, 2017) the revised format of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire, for the Third Periodic Reporting Cycle. The questionnaire now includes questions assessing the implementation of the WH-SDP. Sustainable development is one of the pillars of the analytical framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

Reactive Monitoring and state of conservation of World Heritage properties

26. The Committee has continued to address key provisions and themes of the WH-SDP in the Reactive Monitoring and State of Conservation of World Heritage properties, which is critical to mainstreaming the WH-SDP in conservation and management approaches of World Heritage properties. Development interventions in and around World Heritage properties that do not follow the principles of sustainable development have, in several instances, posed grave threats to the properties sometimes resulting in their inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Some decisions have referred explicitly to sustainable development, such as Decision **42 COM 7** by which the Committee acknowledged the contribution of sustainable tourism to the 2030 Agenda and the positive impact it can have on local communities and the protection of World Heritage (These points are further elaborated in Document 7).

Awareness raising and communication

27. Awareness raising and communication are an integral part of all activities that relate to the WH-SDP, as presented in this document. Dedicated websites are regularly updated (<https://en.unesco.org/themes/culture-sustainable-development>; <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/>) and provide a valuable platform for communication and advocacy, knowledge management, sharing of information and evidence-based data collection. Brief case studies included on the <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/> provide valuable perspectives on good practices in different regions of the world.
28. Some communication strategies can be particularly useful in promoting the WH-SDP, such as the UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscapesprize/>), which was created in 1995 and renewed in October 2017 at the 202nd session of the UNESCO Executive Board. The Prize rewards outstanding action to safeguard and enhance the world's major cultural landscapes, which can contribute significantly to sustainable development and help achieve a number of goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Prize has been awarded six times between 1995 and 2011 including to three World Heritage Cultural Landscapes, and the next Prize will be awarded in autumn 2019 in connection with the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference.
29. A challenge in this regard has been that communication and awareness raising requires human and financial resources as well as partnerships globally to reinforce consistent and coordinated messages at a variety of levels from the highest political levels to those of local communities. Impact requires the engagement of public and private sectors as well as civil society organizations and NGOs in addition to local communities. Collective commitment can certainly help to scale up the level and extent of communication.

Conservation and capacity development

30. Operational activities in and around World Heritage properties remain an important means to implement the WH-SDP, and help build the evidence and fulfil the potential of the Convention to contribute to sustainable development and harness the collective benefits for society. A majority of the operational activities under the *World Heritage* Convention relate to conservation and capacity building, with some that are aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities. UNESCO standard reporting structure requires reporting against specific SDG Targets on all its activities.
31. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies continue to be engaged in several operational and field activities that contribute to aligning the heritage conservation and management strategies with broader sustainable development objectives, in accordance with the five strategic objectives for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building, Communication and Communities), and the Performance Indicator 4 "Number of World Heritage properties whose conservation contributes to sustainable development". Many relevant activities are presented in documents under items 5A, 5B, 6 and 10A of the Committee's agenda at its 42nd and 43rd sessions, and some examples are reported below.
32. At the 42nd session of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre presented the progress report of the World Heritage Thematic Programmes that closely align their activities with the 2030 Agenda and the WH-SDP (Document WHC/18/42.COM/5A). For example, the World Heritage Education Programme remains as an important initiative

to promote the inclusion of youth and “to fostering intergenerational equity, justice, and a world fit for present and future generations” (WH-SDP).

33. Community-based heritage conservation projects have been developed following the Operational Action Plan of the International Conference “Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver for Sustainable Development” (Arusha, 2016) and the Ngorongoro Declaration. Thanks to funding by the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, activities were carried out in Benin with the aim of strengthening the capacities of local communities for the safeguarding of heritage.
34. Long-standing cooperation with the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme on the joint Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) initiative continues, now directed by the WH-SDP. Latest additions to grant-making programmes for communities include “Maloti-Drakensberg Park” (Lesotho/South Africa) and “Okavango Delta” (Botswana), supported by the UNESCO-Flanders and Netherlands Funds-in-Trusts cooperation.
35. In Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) a detailed damage assessment of cultural heritage in Tonga following Tropical Cyclone Gita was carried out and reviewed in a meeting organized in Tonga by the UNESCO Office in Apia (16-23 June 2018), with funding from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund. Additionally, thanks to support from UNESCO/Malaysia Funds-in-Trust, a workshop on ‘Experience Sharing on Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy’ was organized in Semarang, Indonesia (July, 2018) focused on three Heritage Cities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
36. Operational activities, those focused on conservation action as well as those on capacity building, are valuable opportunities for implementing the objectives of the WH-SDP. These activities should, as far as possible, include elements on local communities and ways to integrate them with sustainable development. Such activities at the national and local level need further support and mainstreaming into major development efforts nationally and locally.

Focus on priority themes: local communities, indigenous peoples and gender equality

Respecting, consulting and involving indigenous peoples and local communities

37. By Decision **41 COM 7** (Kraków, 2017), the Committee noted the establishment of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum for World Heritage “as an important reflection platform on the involvement of Indigenous Peoples in the identification, conservation and management of World Heritage properties”. The first official meeting of the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum for World Heritage (<http://iipfwh.org/>) took place at the last 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, 2018, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1841/>).
38. At its 42nd session, the Committee inscribed several sites on the World Heritage List, which are closely related to indigenous peoples, including “Aasivissuit – Nipisat. Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea” (Denmark) and “Chiribiquete National Park – The Maloca of the Jaguar” (Colombia). The nomination of the “Pimachiowin Aki” World Heritage property (Canada) triggered important reflections by the Committee on processes for mixed nominations (Decisions **38 COM 9B**, **39 COM 9B** and **41 COM 9B**) and “raised fundamental questions in terms of how the indissoluble bonds that exist in some places between culture and nature can be recognized on the World Heritage List” (Decision **37 COM 8B.19**).

39. Following the consideration of the draft Policy on engaging with indigenous peoples, the UNESCO Executive Board took note of the policy with satisfaction at its 202nd session in October 2017 (<https://en.unesco.org/indigenous-peoples/policy>). The UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples outlines a house-wide approach that guides the organization's work in all areas of its mandate that involve or are relevant for indigenous peoples. By Decision **37 COM 12.II**, the Committee had decided to re-examine the recommendations of the International Expert Meeting on the World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples (Denmark, 2012) (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/906/>) following the results of the discussions by the UNESCO Executive Board on the UNESCO Policy on indigenous peoples for further steps.
40. In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution (**71/178**) proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages and requested UNESCO to serve as the lead organization. UNESCO has worked with governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, researchers and other stakeholders to elaborate an action plan which sets out the path to achieving the objectives of the International Year (<https://en.iyil2019.org/>). An official launch event of the International Year was organized by UNESCO in January 2019 (<https://en.unesco.org/news/2019-international-year-indigenous-languages-be-launched-month-unesco>). The World Heritage Centre has cooperated with the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum for World Heritage to reflect on and promote the indigenous languages that are connected to World Heritage properties and contributes to Sector-wide activities towards this.

Achieving gender equality

41. In addition to the aforementioned proposed update of the *Operational Guidelines*, which is meant to systematically take into account gender equality as a fundamental dimension of participation and inclusion of the work carried out under the Convention, the World Heritage Centre has made structured efforts to ensure a gender-sensitive and gender-balanced approach in the implementation of its activities, in conformity with UNESCO's Priority Gender Equality and Action Plan for 2014-2021. Examples of specific projects with a strong focus on gender equality are reported below.
42. Gender equality has been an important factor in the European Union-funded and UNESCO-led project "Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region" (2014-2018, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/lake-ohrid-region/>). Local community participation and a clear representation of women in leading positions were encouraged in all activities to ensure equality in the decision-making process and to contribute to sustainable development in the region. The minimum target participation rate of women (40%) was exceeded with an average participation of 56% in a total of 17 meetings, workshops or events. All project outputs (19 workshop reports, 8 newsletters, 6 publications, one website and 5 videos) use gender-neutral language and are aimed at a balanced representation of women and men.
43. In February 2018, UNESCO and Fondation CHANEL launched a project "Empowering women through sustainable tourism in Madagascar" in the communities surrounding the Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve World Heritage property, supported by the Government of Madagascar, the US Embassy in Madagascar and National Geographic. The project, which is jointly implemented by UNESCO's Culture and Education Sectors, supports vocational education and training in sustainable tourism, with a focus on women, aiming at increasing opportunities for women in the sustainable tourism sector, improving their livelihoods and helping them become financially independent.

44. At the World Heritage property “Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta” (Pakistan), a tile workshop was established with the support of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-In-Trust project “World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Community Involvement” (2016-2018), in partnership with the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan. The workshop served as a training centre for women from the villages surrounding the World Heritage property, who learned ceramics production and tile-making for conservation purposes along with ceramics to be sold to visitors. These outreach and income-generation activities have improved the lives of local women, who now play a crucial role in the conservation of the property, thereby gaining a sense of ownership, pride and identity, in addition to the material benefits they derive from the production and sale of ceramics. See <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sdci/> for more information. A second phase of the project was approved under the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-In-Trust in April 2019. Similar activities will be launched in India and Sri Lanka.

III. PLANNED ACTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

45. By Decision **41 COM 5C**, the Committee reiterated the need to achieve the right balance between environmental, social and economic sustainability, while fully respecting and protecting the OUV of World Heritage properties. This is a difficult but crucial endeavour. The WH-SDP stipulates that all dimensions of sustainable development should apply to natural, cultural and mixed properties in their diversity, and that sustainable development is underpinned by good governance frameworks. In reality, well-intentioned development activities assumed to be sustainable, such as maximisation of tourism revenue to boost the economy, and not integrated with heritage management and the WH-SDP may undermine environmental sustainability or compromise social inclusion. Further efforts are therefore necessary to take a systematic and holistic approach to mainstreaming the WH-SDP into the implementation of the Convention, on one hand, and into the operational activities and national and local policies and processes related to sustainable development and World Heritage, on the other.
46. While sustainable development remains a transversal issue, cutting across all activities and processes under the Convention, specific focus and additional funding are required to move forward with the implementation of the WH-SDP. The recommendations of the 2016 workshop “World Heritage and Sustainable Development – From Policy to Action” will be useful in following up on the Committee’s request to develop a specific strategy, as appropriate, for the implementation of the WH-SDP (**40 COM 5C**)
47. The World Heritage Centre therefore proposes to develop a clear roadmap for implementation, monitoring progress and reporting, with a view to improving operationalisation of the WH-SDP and supporting the States Parties in their implementation of WH-SDP. Such an action would also improve fundraising efforts and may include the development of tools, indicators, and capacity building materials towards establishing specific operational procedures and working modalities of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in relation to the WH-SDP. These would also be valuable for the capacity-building initiatives and operational activities in and around World Heritage sites, as envisioned at the time of drafting the WH-SDP. Pilot projects, in turn, would enable developing methodologies for better assessment of threats to sustainable development in and around the World Heritage properties as well as to identify the opportunities to further the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the WH-SDP. Recognizing and gathering good practices and sharing experiences of the challenges in implementation would be other valuable ways to support and enhance the mainstreaming of Sustainable Development in operational activities.

48. The development of a road map would be an occasion to aim at improving policy coherence and synergies in implementation, by reflecting on the linkages between the WH-SDP, the SDGs, and other relevant global agreements, such as those related to climate change (Paris Agreement) and disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework), and related World Heritage strategies and policies. These would include the 2006 World Heritage Strategy and 2007 Policy on Climate Change, the 2007 World Heritage Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction, among others.
49. Building also on Committee Decision **42 COM 5A** and the decision of the 206th UNESCO Executive Board, which both call for reinforcing the synergies between the HUL Recommendation and the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies need to develop guidance materials for cities and urban areas to advance the integration of the HUL Recommendation with sustainable urban development.
50. The States Parties and other potential partners are therefore strongly encouraged to contribute extra-budgetary resources to pilot projects in World Heritage properties and towards defining and implementing a concrete set of actions with supporting tools, and indicators, and good practices for the WH-SDP.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 43 COM 5C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/5C,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 5C**, **38 COM 5D**, and **39 COM 5D**, **40 COM 5C** and **41 COM 5C** adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Kraków, 2017) sessions, as well as Resolution **20 GA 13**, adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th session (UNESCO, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the follow-up activities and the progress made so far in mainstreaming the “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention” (WH-SDP) into the activities of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and into the processes of the Convention;*
4. *Recalling that the WH-SDP stipulates that all dimensions of sustainable development should apply to natural, cultural and mixed properties in their diversity, and that sustainable development is underpinned by good governance frameworks, requests the States Parties to take a systematic and holistic approach to mainstreaming the WH-SDP into their national and local policies, processes, and initiatives related to the implementation of the Convention and to development in and around World Heritage properties;*
5. *Invites the States Parties undertaking activities towards the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to include synergies with the WH-SDP, whenever possible, in order to tap into the potential of the World Heritage Convention to contribute to sustainable development;*

6. Encourages the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and other relevant partners, to reflect on interlinkages between the implementation of the WH-SDP and the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as other relevant global agreements, such as those related to climate change and disaster risk reduction, and related World Heritage strategies and policies that could inform activities, tools, guidance, and communications related to sustainable development;
7. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to pursue, within the available resources, developing activities aimed at policies, tools, operational activities, guidance, communication towards operationalising the WH-SDP and supporting the States Parties in its implementation;
8. Calls on States Parties and other potential partners to contribute financially or through in-kind support to activities towards mainstreaming and operationalising the WH-SDP;
9. Decides to inscribe an agenda item concerning World Heritage and Sustainable Development at its 45th session in 2021, and finally requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report in this regard.