

**TOYAMA PROPOSAL**

**ON**

**HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The participants in the Meeting on "Heritage and Sustainable Development: from Principles to Practice", held in Toyama (Japan) from 3 to 5 November 2012, on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention,

Preamble

1 Appreciating the support of the government of Japan and its authorities, in particular the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Toyama Prefecture for the financial support for organizing and generously hosting this important event,

2 Recognizing that contributing to sustainable development is foreseen within the Convention by virtue of its Article Five (a), which states that:

"Each State Party (...) shall endeavor, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:

(a) to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes....",

3 Recalling the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022, adopted by the 18th General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in 2011, the Five Strategic Objectives of the Convention, and all the relevant Decisions by the WH Committee, notably Decision 36 COM 5C, which calls for the development of a proposal for a policy to integrate a sustainable development perspective within the processes of the World Heritage Convention,

4 Recalling the current international reflection on sustainable development as reported in the outcome document of the Rio + 20 Conference, "The Future We Want" and in the subsequent Report prepared for the UN Secretary General by the UN Task Team on Sustainable Development, "Realizing the Future We Want for All", which provide the framework for the review of the Millennium Development Goals and the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda,

5 Recalling as well the two resolutions on "Culture and Development" adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2011 A/RES/65/166 and A/RES/66/208, emphasizing the importance of culture as “an essential component of human development, a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community”,

6 Consider that, particularly when guided by the three overarching principles of sustainability, equality and human rights, the appropriate conservation and management of the natural and cultural heritage, as well as of the traditional/established knowledge and skills associated to its care, can make a powerful contribution to sustainable development across all of its core dimensions of environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, and peace and security, as defined in the above-mentioned Report "Realizing the Future We Want for All";

7 Welcomes the recognition of the contribution of cultural and natural heritage to sustainable development as expressed in paragraphs 30, 58 and 134 of the above-mentioned outcome document of Rio + 20, “The Future We Want”;

8 Consider, therefore, that it will be critical to integrate consideration of heritage within the specific objectives, targets and indicators of the next generation of Sustainable Development Goals, to be defined from now to 2015 and strongly encourage the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to promote this objective within the appropriate fora and institutional processes, notably within the next session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to be held in July 2013;

9 Acknowledge that, in order to fully harness this potential, it will be necessary to deepen an understanding of the relationship between heritage conservation and sustainable development and identify, as much as possible, quantitative and qualitative indicators that express the contribution of heritage to sustainable development;

10 Recognize, furthermore, that each World Heritage property is different with regard to its potential to contribute to sustainable development, and that often the scale at which sustainable development can be achieved is much larger than that of an individual World Heritage property, since it often relates to processes at territorial, and sometimes even national and regional levels, and ultimately to the needs and aspirations of communities who may live well beyond the boundaries of designated heritage properties or their buffer zones;

11 Consider, for these reasons, that the full potential of World Heritage and heritage in general to contribute to sustainable development can only be harnessed by integrating its conservation within the policies and processes of the local governance and, accordingly, by building the related capacities of all those concerned, including local authorities, local people, tourism and other business sectors, and the wider civil society;

12 Note, to this end, the need to develop and implement appropriate multidisciplinary and multisectoral capacity building programmes and tools, specifically targeted to local development actors, with an aim to integrate heritage conservation into sustainable development;

13 Further note, in this regard, the important role that could/should be played by regional and national institutions associated to World Heritage, such as UNESCO Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN networks, universities, other regional capacity building centres, and the national committees of ICOMOS and IUCN, etc;

14 Recommend further that, in developing such capacity building programmes and tools, careful consideration should be given to successful models and programmes being implemented within frameworks other than the World Heritage Convention, such as the COMPACT programme, the Satoyama Initiative, the conservation-related programmes and safeguards of the World Bank and regional development banks, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the European Landscape Convention, Council of the Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention), and other relevant processes;

15 Recommend that all these considerations should be taken into account in developing the policy requested by the World Heritage Committee under Decision 36/COM.5C so as to effectively mainstream sustainable development within each stage of the implementation of the Convention at both national and local levels.

Toyama, 5 November 2012