The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision 42 COM 7B.14 adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not inform the World Heritage Committee of the Orange Line Metro (OLM) project, nor acknowledged that the construction of OLM has considerable impacts on the attributes relating to artistic and aesthetic accomplishments in the 16th and 17th centuries, as recognised at the time of inscription, and also regrets that the State Party did not give due consideration to alternative options before irreversible decisions were taken, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, especially with regard to the impacts of the OLM, its route and its visual predominance in the landscape on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to address some of the Committee’s requirements with regard to the conservation of the property and the directions provided by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in particular in relation to the construction and operation of the OLM project, such as the planting of trees which may screen the view of the OLM from the property and the test operations to evaluate vibration levels, and requests that the outcomes of all monitoring activities be communicated to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes the creation of the Special Committee of Experts and Technical Committee under orders of the Supreme Court which oversees and monitors OLM-related operations Orange Line Project and future projects, in cooperation with a Technical Committee, and further recommends that they act as a regulating body similar regulatory committees will be setup by the Directorate General of Archaeology for Orange Line related operations and future projects to enable informed decision-making
processes, in compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines and in close consultation with the Directorate General of Archaeology of Punjab;

\(6\) 5. Also notes the State Party’s advice that a number of conservation projects have been implemented in and around the Lahore Fort component of the property, including the conservation of murals, and also requests, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, that the State Party submit full details of the work undertaken and of any plans for future projects, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

\(7\) 6. Further regrets. Takes note the insufficient of the implementation of some of the recommendations formulated by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring Mission, notably concerning the mitigation of the OLM’s impacts on the OUV of the property, and strongly urges the State Party to implement all these recommendations, and especially to further notes that for the remaining recommendations, the State Party is in the process of hiring reputed consultants to undertake detailed feasibility studies. Further actions thereof will be taken in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies after the consultant’s findings become available;

a) Divert vehicular traffic away from the Shalamar Gardens by redirecting traffic in one direction away from the component site, making the GT Road pass behind the newly constructed OLM viaduct, and by constructing an additional motorway further to the south of the property for traffic in the opposite direction;

b) Combine the construction of the additional motorway with the creation of an intermediate green belt to create a separation between the property and the motorway, and develop a more extended green area with tall trees, creating a natural “mask” between the component site and the OLM;

c) Divert vehicular traffic on all other sides of the Shalamar Gardens to surrounding streets and introduce a Noise-Sensitive Zone around the component site;

d) Construct a tube of soundproofing triplex transparent glass along the tracks between the Shalamar Garden and the Pakistan Mint stations, which could also help mitigate the visual impact on the component site, and affix glass curtains on the roadside and on the piers along the viaduct bridge to combat noise and air pollution;

e) Revise the protective Buffer Zone of the Shalamar Gardens to include the three remaining hydraulic tanks, reveal the historical Grand Trunk Road at its original, lower level and create a pedestrian area alongside the south façade, including the adjacent Mughal pavilion, with a view to possibly connecting it with a future pedestrian road going around all sides of the Gardens;

f) Immediately restore the external waterway along the outside façade of the Perimeter Wall, which was part of the Mughal hydraulic system of the Gardens, and further requests the State Party to submit detailed designs for the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in paragraph 7(a) through 7(d) above, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to submit in relation to future projects, detailed project studies to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the commencement of these works, which should only proceed once positive feedback has been received;

\(8\) 7. Requests furthermore the State Party to conduct careful and thorough technical investigations when revising the property’s boundaries and proposing buffer zones and to consider appropriate social measures, particularly if any of these actions to create open space around the property involves the displacement of people residing in the neighbouring areas of the property, as a result of the acquisition of land and houses;

\(9\) 8. Requests moreover the State Party to report on the effectiveness of the roof waterproofing systems and the new and old drainage systems of runoff water in the open courtyards and in the historical buildings in the Lahore Fort, and particularly those corresponding to the Picture Wall sections;
Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of the mitigation measures recommended by the 2018 mission to address the ascertained danger to the OUV of the property, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.