The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.16, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes the detailed analysis and monitoring of the technical condition of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and the planned project for retiling the domes and the waterproofing the roofs, acknowledges the conservation work planned for historical structures in the buffer zone and the related Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), taking into consideration the ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report of 2017, and requests that the State Party ensure expert guidance and oversight for these projects and that full technical details, progress and monitoring reports and submits a final post-execution project report for these interventions be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party and encourages to further work on improved management, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement;

5. Further acknowledges the proposal and associated HIA for the Eski Turkestan Archaeological Park, located in the buffer zone of the property and set to include walkways, presented excavations, visitor facilities and an open-air museum, following the ICOMOS 2017 Salalah Guidelines for the Management of Public Archaeological Sites, and also requests that details of further development of this project be submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in order to allow a full understanding of the scope of the project and of the archaeological evidence supporting the project design;

6. Expresses great concern that, as a result of the declaration of Turkestan as capital of the Turkestan Oblast (province) and a Special Economic Zone, a new approved Master Plan for the city should be has been prepared, but not submitted to the World Heritage Centre, although it includes a both with which includes the revised Visual Access Protection Zone with evidence-based based on 12 view axes that greatly reduces the area where height limitation apply within
the setting of the property as defined at the time of inscription, and considers this reduction to be highly detrimental to the protection of the immediate and wider setting of the property;

76. Also expresses great concern regarding notes that the proposed Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project, located immediately outside the buffer zone, which includes ten components, many of which exceed the height restrictions in place at the time of inscription and would alter the historic setting of the property, and therefore potentially negatively impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); further notes that, although an HIA has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre with its corresponding HIAs, the information provided does not allow for a full understanding of the scope or impact of these projects; and notes with concern that some work has already commenced;

77. Also considers further notes that governance arrangements for the property do not allow the timely submission of information for major developments in the buffer zone and wider setting, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before decisions are taken that would be difficult to reverse, and despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and despite the recommendations of the September 2017 ICOMOS Technical Review and the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission regarding the need for such reviews before the projects commenced, and strongly encourages the State Party to arrange a capacity-building workshop in order to address this issue;

78. Further urges considers the State Party that an updated Management Plan for the property needs to be amended accordingly and include measures that encompass the historic urban environment, and that the amended updated Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

79. Urges Requests that the State Party shall submit any further project that halt further work on of the Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project, and on any preliminary demolitions until essential documentation has been provided to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and positive feedback has been obtained;

80. Also requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to undertake an urgent assessment of all the proposed projects, the new Master Plan and the revised Zone of Planning Control, to make recommendations on how development projects might support rather than endanger the property and its OUV, and to assess whether the property faces any ascertained or potential danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;

81. Considers furthermore that the State Party should withdraw the new Visual Access Protection Zone, which is integrated into the Master Plan for the City of Turkestan, and revise the Master Plan to include a Visual Access Protection Zone that is evidence-based, reflect the property’s heritage values, and positively reviewed by the Advisory Bodies following the submission of the revised Master Plan;

82. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, a 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.