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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE  
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL**

**Thirty-first session / Trente et unième session**

**Christchurch, New Zealand / Christchurch, Nouvelle Zélande  
23 June - 2 July 2007 / 23 juin - 2 juillet 2007**

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the  
World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste  
du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

**MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION**

**Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) (958) /  
Cité fortifiée de Bakou avec le palais des Chahs de Chirvan et la tour de la Vierge  
(Azerbaïdjan) (958)**

**Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, 4 - 10 March 2007/  
Mission conjointe UNESCO-ICOMOS, 4-10 mars 2007**

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:  
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

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The mission wishes to thank especially the Director of the State Department of Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher Mr Kamran Imanov who actively supported this mission providing it with valuable information on the current situation of the World Heritage property during numerous meetings and site visits.

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We would also like to acknowledge the great interest of the different stakeholders associated with the World Heritage property, in particular Mr Rustam Mokhtarov, Director of the Implementation Unit of the Cultural Heritage Project supported by the World Bank, as well as Mr François Vigier, Director of the Institute for International Urban Development, and his team members.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Meidan Tower was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 under cultural criterion (iv). Due to considerable threats, caused by an earthquake and inappropriate changes in the urban fabric, the World Heritage Committee at its 27<sup>th</sup> session (Paris, 2003) decided to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee further requested the State Party to work in close relationship with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division, ICOMOS and ICCROM, to set up a plan of action addressing the conservation issues, and to assist in the preparation of a comprehensive conservation management plan for the property.

After several earlier missions, the World Heritage Committee at its 30<sup>th</sup> session (July 2006) requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the actions taken by the State Party in the follow-up of previous Committee decisions and to elaborate an updated Action Plan in collaboration with the State Party.

The UNESCO/ICOMOS mission was received by the highest authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Culture and Tourism, the National Commission for UNESCO, as well as the newly created administration for the World Heritage property. The mission was also received by the UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Implementation Unit of the Cultural Heritage Project supported by the World Bank.

The principal issues that were discussed during the mission include the following:

- On 10 February 2005, a presidential decree ordered the establishment of the **State Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher (SDHARIS)**, directly under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The new Department has full management responsibility for the World Heritage site, replacing the former authorities of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Executive Power of the City of Baku.
- **Director:** On December 29, 2006, Mr Kamran Imanov was appointed Director of the new Department. The Director is member of the Cabinet of Ministers.

- **Actions:** The Director has taken the following actions: recruitment of staff, stopping all construction activities in the Walled City area, verifying the state of conservation of the buildings, verifying the leasing conditions of buildings under the state protection, initiating the improvement of infrastructures in the Walled City, establishing an electronic control for the entry and exit of motor vehicles, as well as improving visitor information.
- **Building Inventory:** Following the signing of an agreement of understanding between the University of Minnesota (USA) and the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, a joined team has prepared a digital database inventory of all historic buildings in the Walled City area.
- **Management Plan:** an international team appointed by the World Bank has prepared, in close coordination with SDHARIS, an *Integrated Area Management Action Plan* for the World Heritage site and its buffer zone. The plan will be finalized in April 2007 and submitted to UNESCO and ICOMOS for review..
- **Urban Conservation Plan:** The Director of SDHARIS expressed his desire to prepare an Urban Conservation Master Plan for the historic town, including Icheri Sheher and the buffer zone. Contacts will be taken to identify possible tenders.
- **Stakeholders:** The Management Plan foresees a proposed structure for the new Department of Icheri Sheher, also including the establishment of a Scientific Council of institutional stakeholders and experts, as well as a Council of Elders, involving representatives of the local community.
- **While taking note of the measures already taken by the State Party, it is recommended that a follow-up should particularly include that :**
  - The Department for the management of World Heritage site be made fully operational and financially sustainable as soon as possible.
  - Close collaboration be established with other stakeholders,
  - The Management Plan be adopted as part of the planning system and properly implemented as a strategic guideline for conservation management of the Walled City and its buffer zone.
  - The conservation management and land-use control be extended to the urban area dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with the possibility of extending the buffer zone in the future.
  - The Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Baku be updated.
  - An Urban Conservation Plan for the Walled City and the surrounding historic urban area be prepared as soon as possible to be integrated in the Master Plan of Baku.
  - The *Building Inventory* be further elaborated and maintained as a digitized information database for management and planning purposes.
  - Guidelines be prepared for rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as design guidelines for new constructions and the street furniture.
  - The Department of Icheri Sheher be involved in the preparation of the State Programme for the protection of Cultural Heritage Azerbaijan.
  - A coherent training strategy be prepared, possibly in consultation with ICCROM, taking into account the overall needs in Azerbaijan and Baku in the conservation of the immovable and movable cultural heritage.
  - A risk preparedness plan be prepared, based on an accurate assessment of the state of conservation and access requirements in the Walled Town area.

## **Benchmarks:**

The UNESCO/ICOMOS mission confirmed that the requests of the World Heritage Committee have been satisfied in part. However, it is still necessary to provide a follow-up and guarantee the full implementation of these measures. The mission therefore recommends the following benchmarks as a minimum condition for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Make operational the institutional framework for the conservation and management of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone;
- Establish the framework and clarify the system of communication and mutual responsibilities of the stakeholders;
- Finalize, implement and adopt the Integrated Area Management Action Plan

It is further recommended that the State Party report back to the World Heritage Centre on the progress prior to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Committee Session in 2008.

## **1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION**

### **1.1. Inscription history**

The World Heritage Committee inscribed the Site on the **World Heritage List in 2000** under cultural criterion (iv).

Since its inscription considerable threats to the site have been identified, including damage caused by the earthquake in November 2000, and the demolition and inappropriate urban development that continued despite the Presidential Decree of 2003.

The World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (Paris, 2003) decided to inscribe the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the urgency of the situation and in order to ensure that concerted efforts by the State Party be taken to halt ongoing demolition of historic buildings. The Committee further requested the State Party to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division, ICOMOS and ICCROM, to set up a plan of action to address the conservation issues, and to jointly elaborate a comprehensive management and conservation plan in order to ensure the future preservation of the property.

### **1.2. Inscription criteria and World Heritage values**

The site was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criterion iv*, subject to the State Party giving assurances about the further development of the conservation management and monitoring structures for the city:

*Criterion vi* The Walled City of Baku represents an outstanding and rare example of an historic urban ensemble and architecture with influence from Zoroastrian, Sassanian, Arabic, Persian, Shirvani, Ottoman, and Russian cultures.

### **1.3. Integrity issues raised in the ICOMOS evaluation report at time of inscription**

Even though the Walled City of Baku has obviously suffered of changes and destruction, it is still an exceptionally important historic site, especially since it is an extremely rare example of this type of historic town in the region having still retained much of its historic fabric. In an overall judgment, the property can be considered to meet the requirements of authenticity and integrity.

#### **1.4. Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (complete WH Committee decisions are in Annex**

Following the UNESCO mission to Azerbaijan in February 2002, which revealed that a number of the Old City's historic buildings and structures had been demolished and replaced by new structures the World Heritage Committee at its **26th session** (2002) endorsed the UNESCO-ICOMOS expert mission to the site. This mission observed that the concerns expressed by the Committee at the time of the inscription had not been resolved.

The next UNESCO-ICOMOS mission in April 2003 once again highlighted the urban conservation problems and the lack of a comprehensive management mechanism for the site. The World Heritage Committee, at its **27th session** (Paris, 2003), inscribed the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower on **the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

The World Heritage Committee, at its **28th session** (2004), regretted that demolition and inappropriate urban development continued despite the Presidential Decree of 2003 to halt uncontrolled development within the World Heritage property and urged that this Decree be fully enforced. It also expressed serious concern regarding the lack of management and the insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities, strongly urging the State Party to prepare a comprehensive Management Plan which should address conservation issues, development control and tourism management.

Considering the failure of the State Party to respond to the points raised by the Committee during its **29th and 30th sessions**, the threats to the outstanding universal value of the property remained. The World Heritage Committee, once again encouraged the State Party to foster coordination amongst all stakeholders, requesting it to establish an inventory of all historic buildings and infrastructures indicating their physical condition, and urging the State Party to urgently prepare a comprehensive management plan that would address the outstanding conservation issues, development control and tourism management in order to ensure the future preservation of the property.

#### **1.5. Justification of the mission (terms of reference, programme and composition of mission team provided in Annex 1 and 2)**

The World Heritage Committee at its 30<sup>th</sup> session (July 2006) requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the actions taken by the State Party in the follow-up of previous Committee decisions and to elaborate an updated Action Plan in collaboration with the State Party.

## **2. NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

### **2.1. Protected area legislation**

The Walled City of Baku has an area of ca. 21.5ha. Since the 1990s, the population of this area is shown to have decreased from ca. 5000 inhabitants to 3200 in 2006. At the time of inscription, the established buffer zone had some 1500 day-time workers, mainly government employees. The city has continued being faced with problems related to immigration and the development resulting from the oil boom and consequent economic growth. There are also problems resulting from speculation by foreign companies who established their headquarters within Icheri Sheher. The area of Baku is in a seismic hazard area. The salty air of the Caspian Sea causes decay of stone and metal surfaces, aggravated by the wind from the desert mixed with high relative humidity (60%) and sulphur gas in the Baku area.

At the time of inscription, out of its 500 buildings, 100 were owned by the State, 300 belong to the Baku Metropolitan Municipality (former Baku Soviet), and 100 were privately owned. The

Walled City of Baku was listed for protection as a National Monument in 1968 and 1988 (plans approved in 1988). The preservation is regulated by the law on the preservation of historic and cultural monuments, dated 10 April 1998 (no. 470), and the presidential decree of 13 June 1998. The Shirvanshahs' Palace and the Maiden Tower are managed as National Museums, under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The general planning of Baku is the responsibility of the Executive Power of the City of Baku. The administration and management of the Icheri Sheher Reserve has been the responsibility of the National Committee of Restoration and Preservation of the Monuments of History and Culture, reporting to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic. This has been subsequently replaced by the Institute of Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments. The committee had several subdivisions responsible for special activities. For its projects, the Committee consults the Institute of Architecture and Art of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences is in charge of the archaeological research and excavations.

The protection law of 1998 gives considerable powers to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to control development within the city. The government has applied to the World Bank to obtain a loan for the protection of local monuments. The Institute has had some success in reaching a compromise about the planning control and construction of new buildings resulting from recent concessions for oil near Baku (limiting the height of new buildings to three or four storeys).

Visitor facilities include the identification of a pedestrian zone and cultural itineraries with relevant orientation and information panels, displayed with the Walled City and the buffer zone (about 300,000 foreign visitors annually, and about 150,000 visit the museums).

### ***Current State of Protective Legislation***

- Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, November 12, 1995;
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Culture, February 1998;
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on preservation of historical and cultural properties, April 10, 1998;
- In addition, there are recent presidential decrees ordered for the management of the World Heritage site as noted below (point 2.3).

## ***2.2. Institutional framework***

From the time of the preparation of the nomination to the appointment of the Director of the State Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icheri Sheher", numerous organizations were involved in the administration, management, restoration and other activities within the property:

- National Museums, under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- National Committee of Restoration and Preservation of the Monuments of History and Culture, reporting to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic
- Executive Power of the City of Baku
- Institute of Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments
- Institute of Architecture and Art of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences
- Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences
- Department of protection and conservation of the historical and cultural monuments in Azerbaijan, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Nevertheless, the dispersion of the power, absence of the management structure and of the coordination between deferent stakeholders contributed to the partial loss of the authenticity and integrity of the property.

Within the framework of the Management Plan project the organigramme of the institutional framework and proposal of the establishment of the coordination of the new State Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icheri Sheher" with all national stakeholders is under the finalization. It will be communicated officially to the World Heritage Centre after its approval.

At this time, the mission noted the absence of any coordination between the Direction of SDHARIS and national institutional for the Walled City and its buffer zone.



### **2.3. Management Structure and Coordination Mechanisms between Relevant Parties**

#### **THE WORLD HERITAGE CORE ZONE**

The following initiatives have been made by the Government of Azerbaijan regarding the safeguarding the World Heritage site of the Walled City of Baku and its buffer zone:

- The **State Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher** was established in Baku in 1984. From that time up to 2005 the protection and management of the reserve was the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan jointly with the Executive Power of the City of Baku.
- **On 10 February 2005**, a presidential decree ordered the establishment of the **State Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher (SDHARIS)**, which was placed directly under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The new Department was provided with full management responsibility for the core zone of the World Heritage site, thus replacing the former authorities of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Executive Power of the City of Baku.
- The decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, dated **February 28, 2005**, instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to prepare and submit the draft Regulations for the management of the State Historical-Architectural reserve Icheri Sheher.
- The President decree No. 315 of **November 22, 2005** approved the **Regulations** on the management of the state historical-architectural reserve Icheri Sheher (Annex 5). The department will have its own annual budget and will periodically submit for approval by the Council of Ministers proposals for multi-year capital investment programmes related to the World Heritage site.
- The new Department for Icheri Sheher, SDHARIS, has been proposed to be responsible for the following types of activities:
  1. preparation of a comprehensive long-term strategy for the protection of Icheri Sheher and its buffer zone;
  2. documentation and monitoring of the state of conservation of the World Heritage site;
  3. formulation of standards and procedures for the regulation of rehabilitation of existing buildings and eventual new constructions;
  4. maintenance and improvement of public spaces;
  5. development of strategic interventions to improve the quality of life in the area;
  6. organisation and management of community outreach and education programmes.
- These activities are proposed to be articulated in seven divisions:
  1. Scientific research and documentation of the history of Icheri Sheher;
  2. Planning and development: strategic interventions, partnerships; social assistance programmes, rehabilitation grants; tourism, support activities;
  3. Technical services: engineering, architecture, providing of building permits;
  4. Legal affairs;
  5. Property management and maintenance;
  6. External relations and information management;
  7. Administration and support activities.

- With the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, December 29, 2006, Mr Kamran Imanov was appointed as the Director of the State Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icheri Sheher". Mr Imanov has several qualifications; he is a lawyer with qualifications in management and in the information technologies, who was earlier Pro-Rector of the Azerbaijan State University of Architecture and Construction, and in particular Chairman of the Intellectual Property Office. In his present position, Mr Imanov member of the Cabinet of Ministers. He has full management control of the Icheri Sheher area, including direction of activities and interaction with other organizations, such as Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Executive Power of the City of Baku, the University and professional organizations.

### 3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

#### 3.1. *Management effectiveness*

The previous monitoring reports to Baku have mainly referred to the problems in management faced by the site. From his appointment on 29 December 2006 until early March 2007, the Director of SDHARIS has taken the following management measures.

1. **Staff of SDHARIS:** The Director has published an announcement for the recruitment of staff to the new department. The Director proposes to recruit a maximum of 50-60 staff, to be employed progressively according to needs. Applications are now being received, and the selection is expected to take place in April 2007. It is noted that particular attention should be given to finding an architect, who is qualified in urban conservation management.
2. **All construction activities have been stopped,** and the legal situation of each project has been verified. Since the 1990s, there have been 89 new constructions, which can be classified under the following categories: a) new buildings in accordance with the historic context, b) new buildings not in accordance with the surroundings, but that can be corrected with minor intervention; c) new buildings in major conflict with the surroundings (property limits not observed, strange morphology or style), d) new buildings of excessive height. All new constructions have been photographed digitally. The most recent demolition, in July 2006, concerned two late 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings at the southwest corner of the seafront, considered to be in derelict condition. The site is now reserved for the construction of state building.
3. **The procedure for leasing of buildings** under the state protection has been put in order and appropriate measures have been taken concerning the withdrawal of the leasing license of the objects, which cannot be leased according to the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Three contracts have been withdrawn.
4. **Initiatives have been taken to improve the infrastructures of Icheri Sheher;** this concerns initially the replacement of the main electric cables, and then the renewal of the entire network, which is estimated to take at least one year. There is a project proposal by Philips for the renewal of street lighting, and also to improve the illumination of the principal historic monuments, i.e. parts of the fortifications, the Meidan Tower and Shirvanshah Palace.
5. **Traffic:** The measures for temporary limitation of entry and exit of small vehicles and the prohibition of the entry of large trucks has been established. The project for the electronic traffic control and electronic visual monitoring is under elaboration;
6. **Initiatives have been taken to improve visitor information and tourist facilities,** including the project of the digital interactive maps and the printing of new publications, the project of the creation of the itineraries for visitors;

## **THE BUFFER ZONE**

**The Buffer Zone**, as adopted at the time of inscription to the World Heritage List, surrounds the Core Zone on all sides, extending some 100m on the north-west and south-west, and about 200m to the north-east. It also covers the seafront area to the south-east.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has taken initiatives to provide protection for the entire area that developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, which is much larger than the buffer zone. As a matter of fact, this area has maintained much of its historic integrity and it also contains significant public buildings. The integrity of the area is however at risk, considering the current oil boom and the rapid development trends in the city of Baku. There are already several high-rise buildings constructed or under construction which will cause an impact on the integrity of the area.

Considering that the current buffer zone covers a relatively narrow area around the World Heritage core zone, and taking into account the integrity of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century urban development, the possibility of extending the buffer zone should be given careful thought.

The presidential decrees noted above do not clarify the management responsibility for the buffer zone. Therefore, at the moment, it stays with the City of Baku authority.

The Director of SDHARIS has however confirmed that he will take steps to clarify the management authority in the buffer zone, and propose collaboration with the City of Baku and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has furthermore contracted a team of German experts for the analysis and improvement of the seafront area. The purpose is to create a better connection of the Old Town with the seafront. This will be done by facilitating the pedestrian traffic and improve the recreational facilities of the park with on the seaside.

## **THE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Following the ICOMOS recommendation at the time of the inscription of the Old Town of Baku on the World Heritage List, the authorities of Azerbaijan have agreed with the World Bank to assist in the preparation of an Integrated Area Management Plan (as referred to below). At the time of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission, the preparation of this plan was in its final stage, and it will be officially presented to UNESCO by April 2007.

## **URBAN LAND-USE MASTER PLAN**

The World Bank has agreed to assist Azerbaijan in the development of a project for water supply of the city of Baku Based on an updated Urban Master Plan. The current urban Master Plan of the city of Baku has however expired in 2005, and needs to be revised so as to meet the new requirements. Considering that some funds have been saved from previous activities, the World Bank is currently in the initial phase of evaluating if it could undertake the preparation of the Master Plan. So far the issue has not yet been discussed with the authorities of Azerbaijan, and it is expected that the process will anyway take several years.

Considering the urgent needs of the Historic Town of Baku, the Icheri Sheher and its buffer zone, the new department, SDHARIS, has requested the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to provide a list of potential tenders for the preparation of an Urban Conservation Master Plan for this area, which could later be integrated in the overall City Master Plan.

## **GENERAL INITIATIVES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism informed the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission about various initiatives that have been recently taken by the government of Azerbaijan. These include:

- The State Programme for the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Management is currently under preparation by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. This plan will be dealing with whole country of Azerbaijan.
- The Azerbaijan government has decided to join the Council of Europe programme of European Heritage Days, starting in 2008.
- A new museum decree was approved by the President on 6 March 2007.
- The Shirvanshah Palace will become the venue of a regular programme of Mugham evenings with traditional music and performances.

### ***3.2 Positive or negative developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee***

**The state of conservation of the historic buildings** has been assessed, based on the inventory project undertaken by the University of Minnesota and Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction. On this basis, a list has been made of the historic structures in critical condition and requiring restoration. Accordingly, 38 state-owned historic buildings and 12 privately owned buildings will need to be renovated. At the moment, two state-owned buildings and three private buildings are under renovation. 8 buildings were renovated. Plans are currently being made for the restoration of eleven historic buildings, located on one of the main roads.

**Existing new buildings:** Projects are currently under preparation for the improvement of recently built building fronts, which do not harmonize with the historic character of the old town. It is noted that there is need for consistent criteria for this, which should be addressed as part of new design guidelines for the old town area. The mission noted a recent construction next to the Djuma Mosque, which is tentatively stopped. It is urgent for the Director to assess the appropriate character and volume of the construction. If necessary, demolition of the already built parts should be considered as the first persuasive example of the application of the legal power of the new Department.

**Street equipment:** A new bridge will be installed near the Meidan Tower by the end of March 2007. The production of new light fittings for the public spaces is under way. The proposed design imitates "Aladdin lamp". It is proposed that the design criteria of such details be carefully considered so as to be in harmony with the character of the old town area, and to avoid "kitsch".

**Archaeological areas:** The conservation project of the archaeological remains of an Orthodox church and Islamic mosque, close to the Meidan Tower, is under preparation. It is considered that any reconstruction should be strictly limited and that priority should be given to designing a suitable protective cover.

**Training:** The mission observed the urgent need to prepare a comprehensive strategy for training and education involving those responsible for rehabilitation, restoration and eventual reconstruction activities in the old town. This strategy should be consistent with international standards and it could be prepared taking into account the Training Strategy already adopted by the World Heritage Committee on the basis of the preparatory work by ICCROM.

### ***3.3 Information on any threat or damage to or loss of outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity for which the property was inscribed***

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the illegal demolition of historic buildings and uncontrolled construction and reconstruction within the Walled City;
- b) Lack of any management system and insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

The UNESCO/ICOMOS mission considered that the initiatives already undertaken by the Director of SDHARIS were on the right track. It was noted that the last demolition of an historic building took place in July 2006. It concerned a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century structure on the seafront, considered structurally endangered. The problems that have been faced by the Walled City have already been discussed in earlier reports. It is however worth stressing that such problems cannot be solved without being reflected in the broader social-economic context of the City of

Baku and Azerbaijan in general. It is noted that due to the current oil boom the economic situation of the City of Baku has been greatly strengthened, while the rest of the country has remained behind. As a result, the city is subject to immigration and rapid growth. Considering that the historic centre is the focal point of the business and administration, it is naturally subject to pressures of change. This is shown in the number of high-rise buildings that are currently being constructed in parts of the area that developed from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is noted that part of the Walled City was also renovated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, particularly along the waterfront, where land was reclaimed from the sea to form a park. Historically and architecturally, the Walled City area is thus closely associated with the 19<sup>th</sup>-century urban development.

The state of conservation of the Walled City has remained stable for the time being, but obviously requires urgent measures of safeguard. This will be task of the new administration, SDHARIS. However, this task can only be successful if close collaboration is established with other stakeholders, and particularly the Executive Power of the City of Baku and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It is noted, for example, that much of the information about the historic town is with the City of Baku, including earlier building inventories and master plans. From the technical point of view, the historic buildings of Icheri Sheher require particular attention also because Baku is located in a seismic hazard region. In fact, the report by the Minnesota-Azerbaijan team, who prepared the Building Inventory, have noted that many new constructions do not appear to implement any anti-seismic requirements. Furthermore, there is need to redesign and rebuild the infrastructures to meet modern requirements, as well as to verify that appropriate materials be used in the rehabilitation and restoration of existing structures.

#### **4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION**

##### ***4.1 Review whether the values, on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and the conditions of integrity are being maintained***

In the overall, it is considered that the values on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List are still respected even though there have been problems as indicated above paragraphs.

##### ***4.2 Review any follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property and measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the outstanding universal value of the property***

It is considered that the initiatives so far taken by the Government of Azerbaijan, including the preparation of the Management Plan and the building inventory, as well as the establishment of the State Department for Icheri Sheher and the appointment of its Director respond well to the requests by the World Heritage Committee. These measures are further strengthened by the decisions already taken or planned by the Director since he was appointed to the office. Considering that the staff is now being recruited for the State Department, SDHARIS, and that the organizational and financial structure is currently being implemented, it will be necessary to allow some time for the new administration to be fully operational and capable to protect the outstanding universal value of the property.

See paragraphs above.

#### **5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

##### ***University of Minnesota (CALA) / Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction (AzUAC)***

During the joint UNESCO/University of Minnesota mission to Baku in September 2005, the Letter of Understanding aiming at elaborating the inventory of the Walled City of Baku was signed with the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction (AzUAC). Within the framework of the technical assistance provided under the US Funds and the Netherlands

Funds-in-Trust, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 6 December 2004 between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and CALA, as well as within the framework of above-mentioned Letter of Understanding, the University of Minnesota implemented following activities:

1. Technical guidance for AzUAC in order to equip a research laboratory with computer working stations in cooperation with the authority in charge of the protection/management of the Walled City of Baku (Section of the Cabinet of Ministers). In agreement with the Cabinet of Ministers this laboratory could be established in the office of the AzUAC and transferred, if necessary at the end of activity, to the Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers. At the end of the inventory process, this authority has to provide access to this laboratory to the students and professors of AzUAC for training activities.
2. Establishment of the digital database for the inventory of the historic buildings of the Walled City of Baku which could be used/adopted as national standards for registration.
3. Training activities on the use of this database.
4. Establishment, on the basis of the aforementioned database, of the inventory of the historic buildings of the Walled City of Baku (in the perimeter of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone) in digital format including, for each building, a description of the state of conservation, maps, photos, architectural surveys etc.
5. Workshops for the inventory process and strategies of management of the World Heritage Site.

### **Database Laboratory**

The database of the inventory of historical buildings in Icheri Sheher needs to be updated periodically and expanded to serve the purposes of management. A database Laboratory should be established at the Administration of Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT), Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction (AzUAC), and the City of Baku. The Laboratory should have at least one fulltime staff member for managing and regularly updating the database. The Administration of Icheri Sheher needs to use the database frequently for managing historical buildings and other related cultural and social activities. In order to this, MCT, AzUAC and the City of Baku can provide information on historical and current urban conditions, which can be digitized for database purposes, as well as giving technical assistance for its maintenance.

### **World Bank**

The World Bank was committed by Azerbaijani authorities to the development and preparation of the Management Plan of Icheri Sheher as part of the World Bank Cultural Heritage Preservation Project in Azerbaijan. The Implementation Group of Cultural Heritage Support Project Unit (Ministry of Culture and Tourism) supported by the financial IDA credit of the World Bank held an international tender for the preparation of the Management Plan of the Walled City of Baku in spring of 2006. This project was made possible at the request of the Azerbaijan government, who proposed that the Cultural Heritage Support project be extended to cover the Management Plan as well as other cultural activities.

The winner of the tender was the Institute for International Urban Development (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and "Alstrup and Avnby Architects ApS" (Denmark). From August 2006 the team consisting of experts from USA, Denmark, Lithuania and Russia carried out the study of the current situation for the preparation of the Management Plan. The head manager of the project is Mr François Vigier. In December 18, 2006, the Draft Integrated Area Management Action Plan was presented to the local organizations and independent experts.

Following the request of the World Heritage Centre addressed to the national authorities and to the Vice-President of the World Bank, a tripartite consultation process between the Government of Azerbaijan, World Bank and UNESCO was established during the UNESCO/ICOMOS joint mission in order to bring together all efforts in the preparation of the Management Action Plan of the Walled City of Baku as requested by the World Heritage Committee.

During the consultation meeting, the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission was informed that the Management Plan would provide an analysis of the situation in the Walled City area and the surrounding buffer zone. The purpose of the plan is to provide an institutional framework for the new authority and outline its technical responsibilities. Furthermore, the plan defines guidelines for a safeguard and development strategy for Icher Sheher. It proposes a series of key strategic interventions required to implement it and outlines the nature of development controls to preserve the historical integrity of the site, while allowing improvements in the private sector activities as an integral part of the old city. The plan also defines a financial framework for the new authority, and proposes a citizens' participation as one of the key stakeholders in the decision-making process.

The Management Plan aims to formulate a long-term strategy to guide the evolution of Icheri Sheher proper and its 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century urban surroundings as an integrated part of Azeri culture. Its purpose is to effectively protect the World Heritage site from external development pressures and maintain its integrity as a coherent urban entity. In order to achieve this, it will be necessary to empower the newly created department with the financial and technical means necessary to define and undertake the strategic interventions needed to implement the long-term vision. It is necessary to adopt coherent rehabilitation controls to improve existing buildings and allow the development of new buildings whose massing and style is compatible with the historic setting of Icheri Sheher and its buffer zone. It is also necessary to ensure a fair and transparent decision-making process that fosters the participation of all stakeholders, and to organize and manage community outreach and education programmes.

The newly created Department, SDHARIS, should simultaneously focus on the formulation of its permanent institutional management structure, the preparation of the Action Plan, and undertake specific improvements to demonstrate its ability to protect the World Heritage site and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants. The priority activities will include improved traffic management, the improvement of the state of conservation of public spaces, improved lighting and signage for visitors, as well as improving the collection of solid waste. The medium term objectives include the improvement of infrastructures, such as reconstruction of the sewage system and finding a solution for gas and water pipelines, improvement of housing.

## **6. INVOLVEMENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

With the purpose of raising public awareness on the significance of the site and attraction of local inhabitants to the preservation process three-day Festival of Old City was held in June 2005. The Festival was organized by the Project Implementation Unit of the Cultural Heritage Support Project, which was financed by the World Bank credit. Taking into account the importance of the involvement of the local community into the preservation of the site and its popularization it is planned to continue such activities. Some streets and small recreation districts for local population were renovated in the framework of the above-mentioned project from the second half of 2005 to the beginning of 2006.

The State Department for Icheri Sheher, SDHARIS has also foreseen the creation of a Council of Elders, consisting of representatives of the different sections of the population. This Council would be invited to participate as one of the stakeholders in the decision-making process regarding the conservation management of the Old Town area.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Having examined the situation in the Walled City of Baku and having discussed the initiatives already taken by the authorities, the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission was satisfied that the State Party had properly responded to the requests made by the World Heritage Committee in its last session in 2006. The mission however notes that many issues remain to be addressed in order to guarantee the sustainable conservation management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone in the long-term. The mission thus recommends the following types of actions to be taken.

### **7.1 Recommendations for any additional action to be taken by the State Party, including draft recommendations to the World Heritage Committee**

- Following the establishment of the new administration, SDHARIS, for the conservation management of Icheri Sheher, it is recommended that the State Party give full support so as to make it fully operational and financially sustainable as soon as possible.
- While recognizing that SDHARIS has been given full responsibility for the management of the World Heritage property, but also considering that this is an integral part of the historic town of Baku, it is recommended that close collaboration be established between SDHARIS and the other stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Executive Power of the City of Baku, as well as the inhabitants of the area.
- While recognizing that the Management Plan for the World Heritage property has now been accomplished, it is recommended that once it has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by ICOMOS, this should now be adopted and properly implemented as a strategic guideline for conservation management not only of the Walled City but also of the buffer zone and the wider 19<sup>th</sup>-century urban area.
- Following the initiative by the Ministry of Culture, it is recommended that the system of conservation management and land-use control be extended to the urban area dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. As indicated in the Management Action Plan, consideration should also be given to the possibility of extending the buffer zone to cover a larger part of this historic town area.
- Considering that the earlier Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Baku has expired in 2005, it is recommended that steps be taken to revise it, taking into account the requirements of the historic town of area of Baku. Particular attention should be given to guiding the development so as to relieve the excessive pressures from the Old Town area.
- It is further recommended that the preparation of an Urban Conservation Master Plan for the Walled City and the surrounding historic urban area be initiated as soon as possible, considering this essential for the implementation of conservation management. This plan should be integrated into the General Urban Master Plan of the City of Baku once its preparation is initiated.
- It is recommended that the *Building Inventory* be further elaborated by: a) preparing a digital map of the area concerned and linking the database to this map as an instrument for urban conservation planning; b) extending the database to buildings in the buffer zone; c) complementing the database with information from earlier databases from the Soviet period, currently kept by the City of Baku.
- Considering that the new Department for Icheri Sheher, SDHARIS, has to face a complex task in guiding conservation management in the Old City area, it is considered urgent to prepare and adopt detailed guidelines for rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as clear design guidelines for new constructions and the street furniture, including light fittings, railings, protective covers for archaeological areas, and signage.
- Considering that the State Programme for the protection of the Cultural Heritage Azerbaijan necessarily concerns the Walled City of Baku as one of the major heritage resources in the country, it is recommended that SDHARIS be involved in the development of this programme.
- Recognizing the initiatives already taken by the State Party to provide training opportunities for conservationists, such as the training course organized by ICCROM in Rome in 2005, it is recommended that a coherent training strategy be prepared taking into account the overall needs in Azerbaijan regarding the conservation of the immovable and movable cultural heritage. It is recommended that ICCROM be consulted



for the development of appropriate training addressing especially the issues relative to the historic town of Baku.

- Considering that current structural conditions of the existing historic fabric and the lack of proper safety measures, it is recommended that a risk preparedness plan be prepared, based on an accurate assessment of the state of conservation and access requirements.

***7.2 Whenever further action is needed, clear benchmarks indicating the corrective measures to be taken in order to achieve significant improvement of the state of conservation and a timeframe within which the benchmarks will have to be met***

It is recommended that, in order to remove the property of the Walled City of Baku from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the following benchmarks be met as a minimum requirement. It is further recommended that the State Party report back to the World Heritage Centre on the progress prior to the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee:

**- Institutional framework**

Make operational the institutional framework for the conservation and management of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone. The State Party has already accomplished the first engagement by establishing the State Department for the management of Icheri Sheher under the Cabinet of Ministers and appointing its Director. The Director is currently engaging the staff, and developing the operational and financial structure and action plan for the new department, whose task will be to guarantee the conservation and sustainable development of the Old City. The State Party is requested to report back on the progress before 1 February 2008.

**- Collaboration between stakeholders**

Establish the framework and clarify the system of communication and mutual responsibilities of the stakeholders: While recognizing the important steps already taken for the setting up of the new department, SDHARIS, which will take the responsibility for the management of the Icheri Sheher, there is now need to establish close coordination and clearly define the responsibilities of SDHARIS in relation to other institutions, in particular the Ministry of Culture, the Executive Power of the City of Baku, and other stakeholders associated with the historic city. This is especially relevant for the planning and management of the surroundings of Icheri Sheher, i.e. the buffer zone and the larger historic area that developed in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In order to facilitate this process, it is suggested that the Cabinet of Ministers appoint a special Commission for the Coordination, chaired by the Director of SDHARIS, and consisting of the relevant stakeholders and specially selected experts.

**- Finalize and implement the draft Management Plan**

Finalize and implement the Aerial Management Action Plan: As requested by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party has undertaken the preparation of an Integrated Area Management Action Plan for the Walled City of Baku and its buffer zone. It is noted that this plan is expected to be finalized by the end of April 2007. It will then be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS. Taking note of the advance of the development of the operational structure and financial basis of SDHARIS under the newly appointed Director, this Management Plan now needs to be implemented. This will require the adoption and enforcement of development regulations, as well as securing funding for capital improvements. It is recommended to the State Party to report on progress in this regard before 1 February 2008.

***7.3 Recommendation as to whether the level of threats to the property warrants the property being placed on or removed of the List of World Heritage in Danger***

The mission recommends that discussion on possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger should be postponed until 2008. Additional time needs to be allowed for the newly established State Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve of Icherisheher to implement the necessary administrative changes and implement the activities as indicated above, as well as to propose a timeframe for identified benchmarks. Only when the benchmarks are properly met, the Committee should take the necessary steps to have the property removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**joint UNESCO – ICOMOS mission**  
**Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)**  
**4 – 10 March 2007**

1. Carry out a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 30<sup>th</sup> session (30 COM 7A. 29), to review the state of conservation of the World Heritage property of the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan), inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003;
2. Review the overall situation of the Walled City of Baku with regard to the state of conservation of the property and specifically to the factors affecting its Outstanding Universal Value ;
3. Evaluate the implementation of the Presidential Decree to halt demolition and uncontrolled development within the World Heritage property ;
4. Evaluate the progress of the implementation of the decisions of the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> sessions of the World Heritage Committee, including all actions taken to implement the corrective measures;
5. To evaluate the progress made in the establishment of the coordination amongst all stakeholders and notably between the national and municipal authorities;
6. Evaluate the Inventory Data Base, as well as the inventory project report elaborated by the University of Minnesota (USA), in collaboration with the State University of Architecture of Baku, under UNESCO's activity financing contract ;
7. Assist in the elaboration of the recommendations in order to establish, using the created Data Base, an inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating the physical conditions as well as the rehabilitation methodologies within the property, in compliance with decision 29 COM 7A.28 and 30 COM 7A. 29;
8. Evaluate the progress made concerning the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan to address conservation issues, urban development control and tourism management at the property;
9. Evaluate the possibilities to use/integrate the Inventory Data Base to the Project of the Management Plan under elaboration by the Institute for International Urban Development, Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA) within the framework of the World Bank Cultural Heritage Preservation Project;
10. Elaborate a plan, including the definition of benchmarks for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (29Com 7C) and the timeframes for corrective action, in collaboration with the national and local authorities, in compliance with decision 30 COM 7A. 29;

11. Prepare a detailed report by 31 March 2007 for review by the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee including, in conformity with paragraph 173 of the *Operational Guidelines*:
- a. an indication of threats or significant improvement in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee;
  - b. any follow-up to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee to the state of conservation of the property; and
  - c. information on any threat or damage to or loss of outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List,

as well as considering *Operational Guidelines* paragraphs 190-1991 (Regular review of the state of conservation of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger) ; 192-198 (procedure for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List), including benchmarks and timeframes for corrective action, and submit the report to the World Heritage Centre in electronic form (not exceeding 10 pages; according to the enclosed format).

**UNESCO/ICOMOS joint expert mission to the World Heritage site of the Walled City with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)  
4-10 March 2007, Baku**

**Participants to the mission:**

**Ms Anna Sidorenko-Dulom**

Focal Point for Central and Eastern Europe  
Europe and North America Section  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

**Mr Jukka Jokilehto**

ICOMOS Expert

**Mr. Arthur Chen**

Director of the Centre for World Heritage Studies (CWHS), University of Minnesota, USA

**PROGRAMME**

**March 3, Saturday**

22.05

Arrival of Ms. Anna Sidorenko-Dulom

**March 4, Sunday**

20.55

Arrival of Mr. Jukka Jokilehto

21.35

Arrival of Mr. Arthur Chen

**March 5, Monday**

10.30 – 14.00

Meeting with Mr. Kamran Imanov, Director of Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers  
Evaluation visit to the World Heritage site of the Walled City with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Icherisheher)

15.00 – 16.00

Meeting with Mr. Fuad Iskandarov, former Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO and Mr. Emil Hasanov, Second Secretary

16.30 – 19.00

Expert working meeting

**March 6, Tuesday**

10.00 – 11.00

Meeting with Bruno Pouezat, UN Resident Co-ordinator, Azerbaijan

11.30 – 13.30

Working meeting with Mr. Kamran Imanov, Director of Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers

15.30 – 16.30

Meeting with Mr. Elchin Efendiev, Deputy Prime-Minister  
- Mr. Ismayil Sadiqov, Head of Scientific, cultural, educational and social issues section of the Cabinet of Ministers;  
- Mr. Kamran Imanov, Director of Icherisheher Department;  
- Mr. Emil Hasanov, Second Secretary, National Commission for UNESCO.

17.00 – 19.00

Evaluation visit to the World Heritage site of the Walled City with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Icherisheher) and working meeting representatives UNESCO/ICOMOS

**March 7, Wednesday**

10.00 – 13.00

Working meeting with representatives of Implementation Group of World Bank Cultural Heritage Support Project Unit:

- Representatives of UNESCO/ICOMOS;
- Representatives of Institute for International Urban Development;
- Representatives of University of Minnesota;

14.30 – 15.00

Meeting with Mr. Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism and Mr. Rizvan Bayramov, Head of Cultural Heritage Department

15.30 – 19.00

Working meeting with Mr. Kamran Imanov, Director of Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers and evaluation visit to the World Heritage site of the Walled City with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Icherisheher)

**March 8, Thursday**

09.00 – 18.00

Working meeting :

- Representatives of UNESCO/ICOMOS;
- Representatives of Institute for International Urban Development;
- Representatives of University of Minnesota;
- Representatives of Cultural Heritage Department.

**March 9, Friday**

10.00 – 13.00

Working meeting with Mr. Kamran Imanov, Director of Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers

*Detailed discussions on the State of Conversation of the property, Plan of Action, draft Management Plan, draft inventory and elaboration of recommendations*

15.30 – 16.00

Meeting with Mr Alizadeh, Chef, Department of protection of biodiversity, Ministry of ecology and Natural Resources and Ms Amranova, Senior adviser, Department of protection of biodiversity, Ministry of ecology and Natural Resources

17.00 - 19.00

Working meeting with Mr. Kamran Imanov, Director of Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers (continued) / Finalisation of the recommendations

**March 10, Saturday**

Departure of experts

**DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON ESTABLISHMENT  
UNDER THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL-ARCHITECTURAL RESERVE "ICHERISHEHER"**

With the aim to preserve Icherisheher (Inner City), the invaluable monument of the Azerbaijan national material culture, and in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 17 February 2003, construction activities were stopped in the city, and purposeful measures to preserve its historical image began to be implemented.

Long-term protection, conservation, continuation and further intensification of restoration work in Icherisheher require improvement and centralization of these activities' management.

Taking into consideration of the significance of Icherisheher for history and culture of Azerbaijan, as well as importance of its preservation and transfer to generations to come, and with the aim to improve its management, I hereby decree:

1. State Department of historical-architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" shall be established under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. Management of the State historical-architectural reserve "Icherisheher" shall be withdrawn from the Baku city Executive Power and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
3. Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be assigned to prepare Regulations on the State historical-architectural reserve Icherisheher and submit it to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for approval within 10 days.
4. The Cabinet of ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be assigned to:
  - 4.1 define within two months structure and the number of staff members of the State Department of historical-architectural reserve "Icherisheher" under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
  - 4.2 solve other issues arising from the present Decree.

**Ilham Aliyev**

**The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
Baku, February 10, 2005**

**DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON APPROVAL OF  
REGULATIONS ON THE STATE HISTORICAL-ARCHITECTURAL RESERVE  
“ICHERISHEHER”**

1. To approve the Regulations on the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher”.
2. To instruct the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan within 15 days:
  - 2.1 to prepare and submit to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan the draft Regulations on Management of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher”;
  - 2.2 to submit to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan the suggestions on bringing the normative-legal acts in conformity with the present Decree;
  - 2.3 to ensure bringing of normative-legal acts of the Ministers Cabinet and the central executive bodies in conformity with the present Decree;
  - 2.4 to solve other questions following from the present Decree.

**Ilham Aliyev,**

**The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
Baku, February 28, 2005**

**DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON APPROVAL “THE  
REGULATIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE HISTORICAL-ARCHITECTURAL  
RESERVE “ICHERISHEHER” UNDER SUBORDINATION OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.**

With a view of maintenance of activity of the management of the state historical-architectural reserve “Icherisheher” the Cabinet of the Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I hereby decree:

1. To approve the “Regulations on management of the state historical-architectural reserve “Icherisheher” under subordination of the Cabinet of the Republic of Azerbaijan”.
2. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall solve the questions following from the present Decree.
3. The present Decree inures from the date of publication.

**Ilham Aliyev,**

**The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, November 22, 2005**

**Action Plan adopted by the Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers.**

Administration of the newly established Department of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve under the Cabinet of Ministers adopted new development strategy which leads to the creation of the “museum in the open air”. The strategy based on common principles of preservation of cultural heritage forms concrete legal, organizational, scientific, economic and other actions. Taking this into account the Administration adopted a short-period Action Plan.

The Action Plan includes the following activities:

1. Implementation of the Decision of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its 30<sup>th</sup> session (Vilnius, 2006);
2. Elaboration of detailed plan of the Walled City, as well as adoption of the Management Plan providing step-by-step development of the preserve;
3. Elaboration of comprehensive program on the preservation of architectural monuments in the whole and each monument individually, taking into account the existing legislation base, including needs for its improvement, and scientific-conceptual base of the development of the historical-architectural complex;
4. Creation of the commission for research of architectural monuments in need of restoration;
5. Preparation of the project of the Department of “Icherisheher” State Historical-Architectural Reserve’s structure, as well as new regulations on management of Department which will be approved by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
6. Establishment of the research methodological council, consisting of the representatives of governmental institutions and NGOs, as well as creation of the Council of Elders, consisting of the most respected inhabitants of the Walled City;
7. Elaboration of the Commission for research of architectural monuments;
8. Involvement of all interested local and international institutions for the site preservation;
9. Inclusion into the State budget of a separate item providing financial means for management of the site, including restoration works;
10. Implementation of the identification and classification of the architectural monuments into the categories: in need of restoration, in need of conservation and, possibly, in need of drift;
11. Determination of the secured zones of the historical part, influencing the general view of the monument and prohibition of possible construction works here;
12. Implementation of clear electronic entry-exit system in the territory;
13. Establishment of the integrated control and analysis centre with digital visual control system on the territory of the preserve;



14. Maximal reduction of traffic links on the territory of historical zone;
15. Review of existing gas and electric power supply systems in cooperation with appropriate bodies of the Executive Power of Baku City and Ministry of Emergency Situations;
16. Determination and clear regulation of the borders of possible new constructions;
17. Realization of modern illumination of the streets and historical monuments;
18. Elaboration of special program concerning the construction works in the future drift zones;
19. Regulation of the innovations in the historical buildings (plastic frames, air-conditioners, satellite antennas etc.);
20. Prohibition of the superstructures and accessory buildings in the architectural buildings;
21. Recovery of the paved roads;
22. Reanimation of traditional workshops of ceramics, wood engraving, coining and jewellery;
23. Provision with equipment of special tables with important information about the historical monument in order to develop tourism;
24. Development of roadway markers system;
25. Creation of the parks, cafes and restaurants in ancient style;
26. Creation of the museum "Icherisheher" and acting library and stack under it;
27. Realization of all necessary measures for popularization of the Walled City;
28. Provision of the conditions for historical and bibliographical research of the Walled City on the whole and individually;
29. Organization of national and international seminars, workshops etc. for institutions and individuals on the site preservation and conservation;
30. Elaboration of the project concerning the archaeological research on the territory, having provided it with modern technical equipment, as well as publication of results of the researches;
31. Creation of the system of restorative workshops with research labs.

**Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)  
(C 958)**

**Decision 30 COM 7A. 29**

1. Having examined Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.28, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Encourages the State Party to continue to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, other stakeholders and the university networking for documentation through the UNESCO-Forum/Universities and Heritage, particularly in implementing activities outlined in the action plan;
4. Notes with great concern that little progress has been made towards implementing the recommendations of the Committee in 2005, and that in particular one critical decision reported during the 29th session (the transfer of management responsibility of the property to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan) has not yet been implemented;
5. Regrets that no progress has been made with the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan to address conservation issues, urban development control and tourism management at the property;
6. Recommends the State Party to conduct comparative studies in terms of sustainable management of historic towns, and taking into account the Vienna Memorandum on "World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape" (2005), with concerned Scientific Committees of the Advisory Bodies;
7. Urges the State Party to fully implement all previous decisions made by the Committee at its 28th and 29th sessions;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the actions taken by the State Party in the follow-up of previous Committee decisions and to elaborate an updated Action Plan in collaboration with the State Party;
9. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007, on the state of conservation of the property, including all actions taken to implement the corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.
10. Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)  
(C 958)**

**Decision 29 COM 7A.28**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the Document *WHC-05/29.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.29, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Takes note of the outcome of the Round Table and the change of the body responsible for the administration and management of the World Heritage property;
4. Encourages the State Party of Azerbaijan to foster coordination amongst all stakeholders and notably between the national and municipal authorities;
5. Regrets that the State Party did not provide a state of conservation report by 1 February 2005 as requested;
6. Requests the State Party to compile existing information and establish an inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating the physical conditions as well as the rehabilitation methodologies within the property;
7. Strongly urges the State Party to elaborate a comprehensive management plan to address conservation issues, development control and tourism management in order to ensure the future preservation of the property;
8. Further encourages the State Party to continue to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other stakeholders, in particular for the purpose of implementing the activities outlined in the action plan;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2006, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
10. Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)**

### **Decision 28 COM 15A.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges the recent efforts of the State Party, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Division, the Advisory Bodies in setting up an Action Plan to address issues affecting the property, and welcomes the active co-operation amongst the stakeholders in the process;
2. Notes with concern that the State Party has not provided a report on the state of conservation of the property by 1 February 2005;
3. Further regrets that demolition and inappropriate urban development continues despite the Presidential Decree of 2003 to halt uncontrolled development within the World Heritage property and urges that this Decree is fully enforced;
4. Expresses its serious concern regarding the overall lack of management of the property and in particular insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
5. Urges the State Party to provide a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property prior to the Round Table in September/October 2004, so that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies can examine and propose appropriate follow up action;
6. Requests the State Party to continue to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division, ICOMOS and ICCROM in implementing activities foreseen in the Action Plan;
7. Strongly urges the State Party to elaborate a comprehensive Management Plan to address conservation issues, development control and tourism management in order to ensure the future preservation of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to review the situation and to provide a progress report including an updated Action Plan, by 1 February 2005, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session of the Committee in 2005;
9. Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku, with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower, on the List of World Heritage in Danger.