SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the Operational Guidelines, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/43COM/documents

All state of conservation reports are also available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.
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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

22. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1982-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (cf. Document CLT 82/CH/CONF.015/8)

“[… ] the situation of this property corresponds to the criteria mentioned in the ICOMOS note and, in particular, to criteria (e) (significant loss of historical authenticity) and (f) (important loss of cultural significance) as far as “ascertained danger” is concerned, and to criteria (a) (modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection), (b) (lack of conservation policy) and (d) (threatening effects of town planning) as far as “potential danger” is concerned. […]”

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/documents

International Assistance
Requests approved: 1 (from 1982-1982)
Total amount approved: USD 100,000
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: approximately USD 5,000,000 (since 1988)

Previous monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Natural risk factors
- Lack of planning, governance and management processes
- Alteration of the urban and social fabric
- Impact of archaeological excavations
- Deterioration of monuments
- Urban environment and visual integrity
State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Traffic, access and circulation


**Current conservation issues**

The Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (Site proposed by Jordan) was inscribed, as a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam, on the World Heritage List in 1981. It has been further inscribed since 1982 on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

At the time of the preparation of this document no report on the state of conservation of the site has been received from the concerned parties.

Since the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee, the Permanent Delegation of Jordan in letters co-signed with the Permanent Delegation of Palestine expressed concerns regarding reported ongoing works within the World Heritage site of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls which may have an impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (letter dated 5 September 2018).

The same two Permanent Delegations expressed general concerns in a co-signed letter regarding the World Heritage site of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (letter dated 14 November 2018), the same concern was also expressed by the President of the Arab Group (letter dated 13 December 2018).

The Permanent Delegations of Jordan and Palestine expressed concerns in co-signed letters regarding developments related to a project to build a cable car over the Old City of Jerusalem and the impact it could have on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (letters dated 3 December 2018 and 27 February 2019). Similar concern had also been expressed by the President of the Arab Group (letter dated 19 March 2019). Several letters have been sent by the Secretariat to the State Party of Israel (20 February and 16 May 2019) in this regard, underlining that should this information be verified as true, this would be a worrying development as it may have a visual impact on the integrity of the World Heritage site.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.22**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having considered** document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.3 and the Annex attached to this decision,

2. **Recalling** its previous decisions concerning the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls,

3. **Decides** that the status of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decisions 42 COM 7A.21 and 42 COM 8C.2 of its last session,

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**ANNEX**

The World Heritage Committee

43rd session of the Committee (43 COM)

**Item 22:** Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.3,


3. Reaffirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the authenticity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),

4. Also reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,

5. Reminding that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,


7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunneling, works, projects and other illegal practices in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

8. Also regrets the Israeli refusal to implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;

9. Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre, to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to
ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;

10. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

29. **Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) (C 1565)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 2017

*Criteria* (ii)(iv)(vi)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* 2017-present

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

The State Party outlined a series of threats in the nomination file, but none were specified by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription.

*Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger*

Draft submitted by the State Party following expert meeting in Paris in December 2018, in accordance with Decision 42 COM 7A.28

*Corrective measures identified*

Draft submitted by the State Party following expert meeting in Paris in December 2018, in accordance with Decision 42 COM 7A.28

*Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures*

In progress

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/documents/

*International Assistance*

Requests approved: 1 (from 2018-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 60,000

For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/assistance/

*UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

Total amount granted: USD 375,400 from the Government of Sweden for physical rehabilitation

*Previous monitoring missions*

N/A

*Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

Absence of Statement of Outstanding Universal Value at the time of inscription

*Illustrative material* see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/

*Current conservation issues*

In January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/documents/. Progress in addressing a number of conservation issues identified by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- The World Heritage Centre organized a meeting in Paris in December 2018 to discuss the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures, as well as the proposed Management and Conservation Plan for the property. Participants comprised experts from the ICOMOS, ICCROM, the State Party, the
The State Party report includes a draft Statement of OUV, draft DSOCR and draft corrective measures;

- The preparation of the Management and Conservation Plan is being funded under International Assistance (IA). It will be carried out by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, through a contract with the UNESCO Ramallah Office;
- The State Party has endorsed the Tangible Cultural Heritage Law, which prevents new construction inside the property, and requires Heritage Impact Assessment Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for major conservation projects;
- The State Party has implemented projects to rehabilitate historic buildings and improve living conditions, supported by various funding sources. Conservation works have also been undertaken at Al-Haram Al-Ibrahim / Tomb of Patriarchs;
- The report highlights the impacts of vandalism, property damage and other incidents, noting that 800 such matters were reported in 2018;
- Concern has been expressed at development projects planned by the Occupying Power, which may adversely impact the OUV of the property, including a plan to build 31 housing units for settlers in the core zone.

The State Party considers that the property should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM**

The State Party has submitted the proposed Statement of OUV, prepared in accordance with the process adopted through Decision 42 COM 7A.28, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS. The adoption of the Statement of OUV by the Committee is a necessary precursor to finalization and consideration of the draft DSOCR and draft corrective measures. The Statement of OUV is also a fundamental foundation for the Management and Conservation Plan. This project should proceed in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Ramallah Office and the Advisory Bodies.

The efforts of the State Party to begin the preparation of a Management and Conservation Plan for the property should be commended, as should the conservation works that have been completed or are in progress. Endorsement of a new legislation that would prevent new construction inside the property is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party that details of any significant conservation and development projects should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Moreover, as circumstances permit, the processes for managing conservation and development projects at the property should include preparation of HIAs in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties.

It is recommended that the property be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision 42 COM 7A.28, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),

3. Takes note of the consultations held between experts from UNESCO, the State Party and the Advisory Bodies, to discuss the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), the proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and the related corrective measures, as well as the proposed Management and Conservation Plan for the property, and invites the State Party to continue its efforts to finalize the above documents;
4. **Commends** the State Party for actions that are being undertaken to conserve significant attributes of the property;

5. **Reminds** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on any significant conservation and development projects, particularly those with potential adverse heritage impact, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. **Also 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;

7. **Decides to retain Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**