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THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 –31 October, 2001

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Chairperson of the World Heritage
Committee

**Draft resolution on the protection of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan submitted by the
Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, twenty-fifth session (Paris, 25-30 June, 2001)**

Action required: The General Assembly is requested to adopt the draft resolution on the protection of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan, submitted by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fifth session (Paris, 25-30 June, 2001).

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF
AFGHANISTAN SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE
COMMITTEE, TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION (PARIS, 25-30 JUNE 2001)**

“The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, recommended that the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, at its thirteenth session (30-31 October 2001), adopt the following draft resolution:

Recalling the invitation of the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 161st session to the World Heritage Committee to identify the means of ensuring better protection of the common heritage of humanity;

Noting the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954) and its Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the World Heritage Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the UNIDROIT Convention and other relevant international legal instruments;

Appreciating the attempts made by the Director-General of UNESCO, UNESCO Member States and various organizations and individuals to convince the Taliban forces to protect the cultural heritage of Afghanistan;

Condemns the wilful destruction of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan by the Taliban forces, particularly the statues of Bamyán, as a crime against the common heritage of humanity;

Appeals to all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to become signatories to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, its Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the UNIDROIT Convention and other international legal instruments protecting cultural heritage, if they have not yet done so;

Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to inform the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, on the chronology of events related to the nomination for inclusion on the World Heritage List of the statues of Bamyán and other Afghan cultural heritage properties by the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan currently in exile;

Invites the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, to consider:

- a) ways and means by which the implementation of the World Heritage Convention can be reinforced, especially in relation to the other relevant UNESCO Conventions for the protection of cultural heritage;
- b) measures for enhancing the promotion of education, awareness raising activities and communication concerning the irreplaceable values of the cultural heritage of humanity;
- c) improved mechanisms for promoting the scientific documentation of potential and existing world cultural heritage properties;

Invites States Parties to inform the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, on any steps they have taken to encourage the Taliban forces to respect and protect all evidence of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan.

Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to inform the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fifth session on mechanisms to inform, when necessary, the Secretary General of the United Nations of threats to global heritage so that the Security Council may have at its disposal information to enable it to decide on the possible use of sanctions to protect the cultural heritage of humanity.”