

Further Information concerning the State of Conservation of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Place(C707) and its surrounding areas Executive Summary

For a long time, the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa, as a World Cultural Heritage site, has gained top-level protection and management from the Chinese government. The State Council of China has listed the Potala Palace, Norbulingka, Jokhang Temple as State Priority Protected Sites. In recent years, Chinese governments have invested RMB 470 million (US\$77.69 million) to complete the projects of ancient architecture consolidation, protection of the murals and colorful sculptures, construction of security protection systems at the Potala Palace, Norbulingka and Jokhang Temple. These projects ensure the protection of the OUV, authenticity and integrity of the World Cultural Heritage site.

Chinese government also pays high attention to the protection of the old town area of Lhasa within the property area and buffer zone of World Cultural Heritage. The State Council of China approved Lhasa as a first batch “National Historically and Culturally Famous City” in 1982 and listed eight sites inside the old town area into the seventh batch of State Priority Protected Sites in 2013. The Tibet Autonomous Region and Lhasa city also listed historic buildings and traditional courtyards as regional and municipal level priority protected sites. In 2013, Lhasa implemented the *Regulation on Preservation of the Old Town of Lhasa*, which includes the old town area of Lhasa under legal protection.

In 2012, Lhasa city launched the old town area protection project. Such project is dedicated to thoroughly solve the problems that old town faced with, such as backward infrastructure, etc. During the process of the project, Lhasa city organized professional institutions to revise and compile relevant conservation plans and protection project plans, carried out the procedure of environmental impact evaluation, and paid attention to the opinions and suggestions of stakeholders, and ensuring their legal rights and interests. By implementing the protection project, Lhasa ensures the fabric of the Barkhor historic area and the safety of all the historic architecture, improves the state of conservation and management of the historic area and continues the traditional function of the area as a commercial, trading and religious place.

To fundamentally solve the problem of setting up stands along streets that impair the landscape of the historic area and bring safety risks, Lhasa built Shenli Mall and is building Barkhor Mall, which are outside the Barkhor historic area and at the edge of the buffer zone of the Jokhang Temple where government offices had been removed. These buildings will serve as the business premises for vendors of all the 3031 stands. As verified and evaluated by the site experts inspection organized by State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China, Shenli Mall and the Barkhor not yet affected the OUV, authenticity and integrity of the World Cultural Heritage site. Besides, the construction and utilization of these buildings can play an active role in solving the employment of local Tibet, Han and other ethnic groups living in the old town area, as well as relieving the pressure from tourism on the protection and management of the property.