

REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION

Historic Centre of Macao

Executive Summary

2015.1

To protect the authenticity and integrity of the Historic Centre of Macao, the State Party has been, based on the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* and its *Operational Guidelines* as well as related decisions of the World Heritage Committee, engaged in improving the conservation and management of the property. In terms of protection policies, the local Government will address the physical conservation of the cultural heritage and enrich its significance and essence, further highlight its cultural values by exploring and disseminating its culture, foster residents' and visitors' understanding and enhance their experience of the outstanding universal value of the Historic Centre of Macao, thereby promoting the quality of life and living environment of the city. The overall protection policies of the Historic Centre of Macao are to be implemented on three levels, namely following an incremental concept of connecting points, lines and surfaces, and on the basis of gradually expanding the renovation works of historical buildings of the Historic Centre of Macao and respecting its urban and historic landscapes. Connections of space routes and visual landscape between historical buildings will be optimised, and a cultural heritage network which extends deep into the community and offers comprehensive coverage will be formed initially within the Historic Centre of Macao to radiate and extend its influence to the surrounding areas, and finally, on this basis, the overall urban development of Macao will be geared to achieving the goal of sustainable development in line with the context and concept of cultural heritage preservation and continuation.

Regarding the management of urban construction activities, Macao government has conducted strict routine management in regard to urban planning, street landscapes, inter-departmental collaboration, architectural design and civil works in line with the laws, targeting the urban construction activities within the Historic Centre of Macao and its buffer zones. Regarding the census of the immovable cultural heritage, the local Government conducted a census of immovable cultural heritage, which revealed that much immovable cultural heritage which had not been previously classified nevertheless embraced cultural values related to the Historic Centre of Macao and its buffer zones or their neighbouring areas. The census helps further explore and enrich the cultural values and essence of the Historic Centre of Macao, collate the overall context, integrate all historical and cultural sites to form a network, strengthen the integrity of the Historic Centre of Macao and its buffer zones and extend its influence outside the buffer zones. Regarding the maintenance, utilisation and cultural enrichment of historical buildings, the local government

prepared and installed arenas for different new cultural activities in the historical buildings and urban public spaces via appropriate reuse plans. Reusing and reinvesting the meaning of modern life for these buildings and spaces can be deemed as a new way of interpreting and presenting the inherent cultural diversity of this historic port city by the local Government in light of the requirements for the protection and succession the values of World Heritage. Regarding the succession of intangible cultural heritage, the local Government has committed itself to collating, preserving, promoting and establishing the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage and promoting and undertaking educational activities from various backgrounds to enable the spirits and soul of the outstanding universal value of the Historic Centre of Macao to be kept alive and to continue to be passed down through the generations. Regarding the public participation, promotion and education, the Macao Heritage Law and Urban Planning Law have engaged the public in many ways in order to solicit opinions from a wide range of residents and strengthen public involvement in the protection of cultural heritage and relevant works.

In tune with the recommendations by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party has been conducted a serie of works. The Macao Special Administrative Region of China has successively promulgated Law No. 11/2013 'Macao Heritage Law' and Law No. 12/2013 'Urban Planning Law', both of which came into force on 1st March, 2014 for the purpose of providing a legal basis for the protection of the cultural heritage and sustainable development of Macao, and in response to Decision 35 COM 7B. 64 issued by the World Heritage Committee in 2011 established a complete and systematic law, inclusive of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, specifically for the protection of the World Heritage 'Historic Centre of Macao'. Regarding the compilation of the correlated Protection and Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Macao, relevant works have been implemented in compliance with the regulations and procedures of the aforementioned laws and in the first phase, a 60-day public consultation on the framework of the Protection and Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Macao was conducted to solicit opinions from a wider group of residents, build consensus, consolidate public support and clarify the direction of the plan. The first phase of works was completed in early December 2014 and in the second phase, the Cultural Affairs Bureau will collate, reference and gather relevant opinions, complete the compilation of the plan in the second half of 2015, formulate more specific and detailed space management measures and indices and implement the plan in an orderly manner, thereby achieving the goals of effective preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Historic Centre of Macao and sustainable urban development.