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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION**

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Twenty-seventh session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 June - 5 July 2003**

Information Document: Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Mission to the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan), from 18 to 22 October 2002

The Committee may wish to take note of the full report of the Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Mission the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan), which was carried out at the request of the Committee (decision 26 COM 21 (b) 36) from 18 to 22 October 2002.

The draft decision is contained in Working Document WHC-03/27.COM/CONF 7 B

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Acknowledgements

The members of the mission express their gratitude in particular to the Department for the Protection and Conservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments in Azerbaijan who arranged meetings and logistics necessary to complete the objectives of the Mission, the Head of the Department, Mr Rizvan Bayramov, and his staff, as well as the Secretary-General of the National Commission of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, Mr. Ramiz Abutalibov, the Minister of Culture, Mr. Bulbuloghu, the Vice-Mayor of Baku, Mrs. Fiduma M. Huseynova, Mr. Mubariz Guliyev, Director (site manager) of the Icheri Sheher State Historical Architectural Preserve, the Scientific Research Institute for Restoration and Conservation of Architectural Monuments (AZERBERPA), Director of the Academy of Science, Mr. Rasim Efendiyev, coordinator of the Cultural Heritage Support Project, part of the World Bank Project, Mr. Roustam A. Moukhtarov, Director of Museum of the Shirvanshah's Palace Complex State Historical-Architectural Preserve, Mrs. Sevda Dadashova, and numerous other people active in the field. These individuals provided information and insight, which assisted the Mission Team in achieving its objectives.

Executive Summary and recommendations

The UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division reported on ongoing destruction of buildings within the World Heritage site following their mission to Baku in February 2001. Upon the request of the World Heritage Committee and at the invitation of the national authorities of Azerbaijan a UNESCO-ICOMOS mission was undertaken to Baku from 18 to 22 October 2002.

The Mission observed that the concerns expressed by the Committee at the time of the inscription of the site in December 2000 concerning the authenticity and the management of the site have to date not been resolved. The situation in the Old City of Baku has been aggravated by increasing urban development pressures due in part to the arrival of foreign companies seeking prestigious locations for their offices. An earthquake which struck the City in November 2000 with a strength of approximately 6.7 on the Richter Scale further added to this process of destruction. At the time no information on the earthquake was provided to the World Heritage Centre nor to the World Heritage Committee.

Due to the lack of a clear definition of responsibilities and lack of collaboration arrangements among the Government agencies, institutions and the local municipal administration the site is not effectively managed. In the absence of a management, conservation and development plan, activities within the site are not coordinated and moreover are not based on any up-to-date maps of the area. The Mission found that the maps available and presented in the nomination dossier date back to the 1960's and the damage caused by the earthquake or the subsequent changes (demolitions, reconstructions, etc) which have been undertaken in the last years have not been documented cartographically.

Several new buildings have been constructed using new materials and introducing additional floors which are not in harmony with the surrounding buildings. Furthermore, several conservation and consolidation projects have due to financial constraints and lack of expertise changed some of the original features and structures of the buildings. Many of these projects which also include changes to the width of streets and alleyways and the introduction of different road surfaces have a considerable impact on the historic and traditional fabric of the

site. Numerous buildings are in a state of ruin or severely dilapidated and have so far not received any technical assistance and may be demolished.

Some aspects of the conservation and reconstruction works in the Shirvanshah's Palace Complex, a project financed by the World Bank, may have an adverse affect on the authenticity and integrity of the complex. The project foresees the reconstruction of the second floor of the Palace for which no official historical documentation exists. Furthermore, the project group of the World Bank loan have devised a site Development Plan for the Shirvanshah's Palace which should urgently be suspended and reviewed since it proposes among others the demolition of several buildings in the vicinity of the Palace.

Considering these ascertained threats and potential dangers, the Mission recommends to the World Heritage Committee to inscribe the *Walled City of Baku (Icheri Sheher) with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Maiden Tower* on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Section D.1.).

Subsequently, a programme for corrective actions and assistance should be developed taking into account the recommendations (Section D.2.).

I. MISSION BACKGROUND

The Government of Azerbaijan ratified the *Convention* in 1993 and presented in 1999 its first nomination dossier of the *Walled City of Baku (Icheri Sheher) with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Maiden Tower* for inscription on the World Heritage List. In March 2000 an ICOMOS expert undertook the evaluation mission to this site. The expert noted the outstanding universal value of the site and at the same time underlined some disquieting modifications to the historic fabric of the site. Based on this on-site evaluation, ICOMOS provided an evaluation to the Committee and made specific recommendation for future actions including: "*That the site be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion iv, subject to the State Party giving assurance of the future development of the conservation management and monitoring structures of the city.*" The 24th extraordinary session of the Bureau adopted this recommendation and asked for assurances to be received before 1 October 2000.

On 26 September 2000, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the Azerbaijan authorities containing an "Obligation for maintenance, promotion and carrying of the Icheri Sheher State Historical Architectural preserve". Consequently, the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List by the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Cairns, Australia, in November/December 2000.

Report of the 24th session of the Committee

In response to several Delegates, expressing concern about the authenticity and coherence of the management policy of the site, ICOMOS underlined that the Walled City of Baku was the best preserved city of this region and that the inscription on the World Heritage List enhances the protection of the site. This statement was endorsed by several delegates. The Committee agreed to enlist the property but indicated that its concerns should be brought to the attention of the State Party.

Criterion (iv): 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.

Brief description: Built on a site inhabited since the Palaeolithic period, the Walled City of Baku reveals evidence of Zoroastrian, Sassanian, Arabic, Persian, Shirvani, Ottoman, and Russian presence in cultural continuity. The Inner City (Icheri Sheher) has preserved much of its 12th-century defensive walls. The 12th-century Maiden Tower (Giz Galasy) is built over earlier structures dating from the 7th to 6th centuries BC, and the 15th-century Shirvanshahs' Palace is one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture.

A mission undertaken by the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division to the Old City of Baku in February 2001 revealed that a number of the Old City's historic buildings had been demolished and were replaced by new constructions. This information was transmitted by the World Heritage Centre to the National Commission of Azerbaijan with a request for an update report on the situation by 1 May 2002. By letter dated 6 June 2002 the National Commission informed the World Heritage Centre that consultations on Municipal and Government levels were taking place to resolve the issues of reconstruction in the Old City. Furthermore, they requested that the state of conservation of this site not be presented to the World Heritage Committee (Budapest, June 2002), however welcomed a UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the site. The World Heritage Committee took note of this letter and endorsed the UNESCO-ICOMOS expert mission to the site and requested that a report of the mission be presented for examination to the Committee at its 27th session in June/July 2003.

II. MISSION REPORT

A. Current national policy concerning the preservation and management of the site

A.1. Legislative framework

The legal protection of the site is supported by two laws in force, namely *the Law on the Preservation of Historic and Cultural Monuments* (10 April 1998 - no. 470) and *the Presidential Decree* (13 June 1998 - no.725). According to these laws the territory of the World Heritage site, with its precise boundary, has the status of a *National Preserve*. The Mission believes that there is no reason to propose a change to the boundaries of the site, which is delimited by the town wall and its fortifications. The buffer zone of the site is well defined and an extension of this area is not advisable since new constructions/buildings are located beyond the existing buffer zone. All the 539 buildings located within the designated site are classified as *historic and cultural monuments* according to two categories, those of national importance (majority of buildings) and those of local importance.

A.2. Institutional framework

A.2.1. Ministerial structure: The principal responsibility for the management and administration of the site lies with the *Ministry of Culture* (National Preserve - The State Historical-Architectural Preserve of the Icheri Sheher) and its *Department for the Protection and Conservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments in Azerbaijan*. The Department was established in August 2000, replacing the former National Committee of Restoration and Preservation of the Monuments of History and Culture which was under the authority of the

Cabinet of Ministers until February 2000. It is composed of three divisions, namely the Division for preservation and use of monuments (6 people), the Division for restoration (3), the Division for licensing, inventories and normative instruments (4) and a sub-division for construction works (300) for carrying-out works requested by the Department on the territory of Baku as well as within the site. A Scientific Expert Council has been set up and is consulted for expert advice on construction projects for the monuments. This Expert Council has so far only received a small number of projects for review, of which 2 projects have been approved.

The Department works closely with the *Scientific Research Institute for Restoration and Conservation of Architectural Monuments (AZERBERPA)*, whose principle responsibility is the survey of the state of conservation of the monuments in the Old City and the elaboration of conservation projects.

The Coordinator for the Cultural Heritage Support Project is implementing the World Bank loan project (total of US \$ 7.5) of which one component only concerns the site, specifically the Shirvanshah's Place Complex. This loan was negotiated by the Ministry of Culture.

A.2.2. Municipal structure: The Municipality of Baku constitutes 11 districts. The Walled City (Icheri Sheher) is a component of one of these districts (Sabail district) and therefore falls under the responsibility of the Baku Municipality. The Mayor of Baku is appointed by the President of Azerbaijan. Town planning policies are being implemented by the Department for Architecture and Town Planning (ca. 100 persons as staff). The overall management of the Icheri Sheher as an Open Air Museum is assumed by the *Direction of Icheri Sheher State Historical Architectural Preserve* (site manager), whose Director is to be appointed by the Minister of Culture. Its functions are, as stipulated in *Decree* of 2 September 1985 of the Council of Ministers, to assure the preservation and conservation of the buildings in the site according to the policy established by the Ministry of Culture, and to report on its activities to the Ministry.

A.2.3. Institutional structure: The Academy of Science of Azerbaijan, with its Institute for Art and Architecture and the Institute of Archaeology is in charge of research, preservation of monuments and excavations. The *Law* foresees that all conservation projects shall take account of the advice provided by the Academy, both on the scientific as well as on the practical level.

Non-governmental organisations involved in the field of preservation of cultural heritage are the ICOMOS Azerbaijan and the Society for the Preservation of Monuments. However, the mission was informed that these two organisations are inactive and that the ICOMOS representative does not live in Azerbaijan.

A. 3. Operational framework

The management of the site, in terms of preservation is outlined in the *Law* and the *Decree* adopted by the Council of Ministers (No 294 of 2 September 1985). According to this *Decree* the site is under "double management" by the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Baku. All activities pertaining to the management and preservation of the site, construction projects, stabilisation works, and the different uses of buildings and monuments need the authorisation of the Ministry of Culture, taking into account the advice provided by the Academy of Science.

B. Identification of issues

B.1. Factors affecting the property

B.1.1. Development pressure: Since 1995, several major commercial and residential constructions have been carried out in the wider area of Baku. With the increased arrival of foreign companies in Baku, prestigious localities for these office buildings were sought. Given that the Walled City includes only very few available development sites, decrepit buildings are demolished and replaced with new constructions. At the same time the State only allocates very limited financial resources to the preservation and restoration of buildings. Consequently, many privately owner buildings are vacated and sold for commercial use and modernisation. This is increasingly changing the historical social homogeneity of site. Currently 100 buildings are state owned, 300 are owned by the Municipality and around 150 are privately owned.

B.1.2. Natural disaster: In November 2000 an earthquake afflicted the site with a strength of approx. 6.7 on the Richter Scale, which damaged around 70% of the buildings. This was not reported to the World Heritage Committee, which inscribed the site in December 2000. Despite the efforts of the State to consolidate 100 of the buildings, the earthquake intensified the process of destruction at the site. A Special Commission was appointed to evaluate the degree of damage and following their decision, severely damaged buildings were demolished and released for new construction projects.

B.1.3. Infrastructure pressures: The situation of the infrastructure at the site has not been resolved. Bad roads, limited space for parking and changes to the original surface of streets and alterations to the width of alleys have a damaging effect on the site. According to the Academy of Science, the underground metro line which passes under the territory of the World Heritage site has had an impact on the buildings of the Walled City due to vibrations.

B.1.4. Legislative pressures: The status of the site as a 'historical cultural monument', as stipulated in the *Law*, seriously restricts changes of ownership and use of buildings. All buildings, including those which are of no particular importance have the same status. Consequently, this rigid legal protection which restricts the development of the site, encourages illegal construction activities.

All these above issues were already in existence before the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List.

B.2. Conservation practices and development

B.2.1. Conservation and restoration: No integrated conservation plan for the site and no coherent conservation policy for the site exists. So far, there seems to be no consensus regarding conservation, restoration and development, and all the actors at the site operate according to their specific rules or interests. The meeting in the Academy of Science with the Institute for Art and Architecture clarified that their advice is not considered in questions regarding the conservation and development of the site and informed that the archaeological aspects of the Walled City have not been sufficiently researched.

B.2.2. Development: All the maps and plans of the site date back to the 1960's and all the changes to the site since then have not been recorded nor have any of the effects of the earthquake of 2000 been documented. All construction and reconstruction projects are being carried out without a development plan and in the absence of a general strategy.

B.3. Management

B.3.1. Site Management: Before the year 2000, the management of the site was assumed by the Council of Ministers (National Committee) and since 2001 this responsibility has been given to the Ministry of Culture and its Department for Heritage Protection. This change in structure has diminished the significance of the conservation policy. It is very difficult for the Ministry and the Department to exercise any control over the ongoing projects and to suspend projects which may have a negative impact on the site. This situation is also due to the limited role of the Ministry of Culture in the very important Special Commission which evaluated the damages caused by the earthquake and who designated which buildings are to be demolished. This difficulty also applies to activities carried out under the authority of the Municipality. One of the major achievements of the Ministry however is the halting of a construction project in the immediate vicinity of the Shirvanshah's Palace.

The Ministry is very conscious of the World Heritage Convention and its requirements, however, due to a lack of knowledge of the Convention by the majority of the concerned local authorities and lack of enforcement power, the Convention's legal application has not been recognised or respected. There is no coordination between the Ministry and the Municipality which is in violation of the *Decree of 2 September 1985*. The site manager who, contrary to the *Decree of 1985* which stipulates that he is to be appointed by the Minister of Culture, has been appointed by the Mayor of Baku. Although the site manager is required to report on activities to the Ministry this is not being followed and no regular coordination meetings have been held. Similarly, construction projects are being carried out by private enterprises and which have not been given prior approval by the Ministry, its Department or the Scientific Expert Council.

The present administration has commenced its work without resolving the issues which are presently affecting the site, and which were caused by the previous administration. The recommendations made by the ICOMOS expert, who evaluated the site at the time, and the World Heritage Committee have to this date not been implemented. Therefore, the management of the site has to be urgently reviewed and a clear definition of roles and responsibilities, co-ordination and collaboration, at the local and national level has to be ensured.

B.3.2. Management plan: No management plan has been devised. Although the Ministry and the Department are aware that such a plan is needed, its content, structure and objectives still need to be developed. The Minister has requested that expert help be provided, so that such a management plan can be developed in collaboration with the national and local authorities. Priority should be given to the development of a management plan for the site which can provide the framework for all planning processes including a plan for conservation, archaeological research, interpretation and visitor facilities.

B.3.3. Master Plan: The Master Plan of 1988 mentioned in the nomination dossier, could not be found in the responsible institutions. This plan was referred to by several of the authorities but is no longer being implemented.

B.4. Monitoring

B.4.1. Monitoring: There is no regular monitoring nor any documentation of the changes to the architectural substance and structures of the site. The staff of the Department for Heritage Preservation has difficulties carrying out its obligations due to the lack of a clear definition of responsibilities and collaboration arrangements among the authorities are not in place.

B.5. Resources

B.5.1. State funding: The State provides around \$ 250,000 per year to the 6,308 registered monuments located in Azerbaijan. The funds which are allocated to the site are used mainly for the most important monuments such as the Shirvanshah's Palace. All other buildings do not receive assistance with the exception of the 100 buildings which were stabilised following the earthquake. Around 15 % of the resources are used for the elaboration of projects. The World Bank loan of approx. US \$ 7.5 million which was negotiated in 1999 (3 additional cultural heritage sites in Azerbaijan are being restored with this loan) finances the restoration and reconstruction of the 2nd floor of the Palace as well as the cleaning and restoration of the Divankhane, an octagonal rotunda, built at the end of the 15th Century, located within the Shirvanshah's Complex.

B.5.2. Equipment and expertise: The Scientific Research Institute for Restoration and Conservation of Architectural Monuments (AZERBERPA), one of the chief institutions for conservation projects and research in the country is very poorly equipped. Although the World Bank funds provided for computers, the Institute still lacks equipment for development of projects, research and photocopying. Furthermore, there is a considerable lack of training in the field of conservation and restoration which leads to diminished expertise in this area.

C. State of conservation of the site

At the time of the inscription of the site, the ICOMOS expert who carried out the on-site evaluation noted a considerable number of construction projects for new buildings in the old city. It was hoped that the inscription on the World Heritage List of Baku would sustain the process of conservation and protection of the City. The site visits by the Mission Team revealed that the impact of degradation and destruction of individual monuments and important edifices on the historic and traditional fabric of the site, has resulted in a loss of integrity due to the loss of architectural substances, following the earthquake of 2000.

C.1. Conservation, preservation and restoration

Several conservation, consolidation and restoration projects have been carried out in the past 3-4 years under the authority of the Ministry of Culture. These projects, undertaken by the Scientific Institute (AZERBERPA), concerned mainly the buildings damaged by the earthquake of 2000. The interventions related mainly to the consolidation of structures and walls as well as foundations and restoration of roofs and facades, taking into account the

original aspects of the building. While the original and most important architectural elements of the buildings have been maintained or restored, other parts have been changed and modified for practical and financial reasons, thereby changing the original character of the buildings.

Other projects and works on buildings of local importance concern mainly modernisation and upgrading of the interior structures as well as replacing external materials and structures. The *Law* permits the renovation of buildings with the use of modern materials and techniques. In some cases these changes to the character of the building are questionable and of concern, especially when modern materials have been used to replace original stone and wood features.

The World Bank loan project in the Shirvanshah's Palace foresees the reconstruction of the second floor and the construction of a cupola, for which no original historical documentation exists. The *Law* permits the reconstruction of buildings based on artists' drawings, illustrations and old documents and myths. However, in this case, no such documents exist and therefore this project and other aspects of the conservation and modernisation may have an adverse affect on the authenticity and integrity of the site. It should be reviewed as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, the Mission was presented with a project for a site development plan for the Shirvanshah's Palace complex. This plan, which is going to be implemented in the course of 2003/2004, foresees the demolition of additional buildings surrounding the Palace, introduction of plants within the Palace complex and overall landscaping of the site. This plan should be temporarily suspended and reviewed by international experts and in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.

An in depth analysis and evaluation of possible interventions is required for all buildings taking into account its historical or architectural/aesthetic importance. A plan of action with identification of priorities and a timeframe should form part of the conservation plan and should be devised in active collaboration of the national and local institutions as well as with the participation of UNESCO's Culture Sector, ICOMOS and ICCROM.

C.2. Reconstruction

In general the spatial and stylistic integrity of the site has been disrupted through the contrast between modern buildings and dilapidated houses, and changes to the streetscape due in part to the great loss of buildings following the 2000 earthquake. No information on this earthquake nor on the works undertaken was provided to the World Heritage Committee, although paragraph 56 of the *Operational Guidelines* states: "*.. The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to inform the Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property.*".

Of critical nature, are the uncontrolled reconstructions and new building projects of office buildings and private houses or Embassies within the World Heritage site. These buildings have been newly constructed using different architectural styles and materials which are not in conformity with the original architectural fabric of the earlier buildings and therefore considerably alter the traditional urban tissue of the site. Considerable changes to height, shape, use of modern materials and alterations to the width of alleyways and streets were observed by the mission. The height of buildings located in the vicinity of the Shirvanshah's Palace and those situated close to the Maiden Tower have an impact on the integrity of the

site. Underground parking spaces of several levels have been constructed under some of the new office buildings.

D. Conclusions and Recommendations

D.1. Conclusions

The Mission acknowledges the socio-economic situation in Azerbaijan and the conservation efforts undertaken by the authorities. However, uncontrolled reconstruction and development continues despite Baku's inscription on the World Heritage List. The management of the site has not been improved after its inscription and no general conservation policy has been developed. Although the national authorities are aware that a comprehensive integrated management plan is needed, differences in the perception regarding extent of responsibilities between the Municipality and Ministry, conflict of interests, and indifference to the integrity of the World Heritage site by the City has held back this course of action.

The process of destruction and redevelopment clearly threatens the authenticity of the site, and stands in contradiction to the justification for its inscription on the World Heritage List. The national authorities, including the site manager, and the general population have little knowledge or understanding of the *Convention*.

In general, the Mission Team noted that some issues which constitute "Ascertained" and "Potential" threats already existed before the inscription on the World Heritage List. This situation was further aggravated following the earthquake in 2000.

In light of the findings, discussed in Paragraphs B.1, B.2, C.1 and C.2, the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission concluded that the *Walled City of Baku (Icheri Sheher) with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Maiden Tower* meets the conditions defined in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 82 (i), **Ascertained Danger**: b. serious deterioration of structure and/or ornamental features, c. serious deterioration of architectural or town-planning coherence and e. significant loss of historical authenticity.

Furthermore, in accordance with Paragraphs A.2, B.1, B.2 and B.3, it meets conditions defined in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 82 (ii) **Potential Threats**: b. lack of conservation policy and d. threatening effects of town planning.

D.2. Recommendations

In light of the above, the mission recommends the World Heritage Committee:

1. To inscribe the *Walled City of Baku (Icheri Sheher) with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower* on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with par. 82 (i) and (ii) and in consultation with the State Party;
2. To request the World Bank project at the Shirvanshah's Palace be reviewed in cooperation with ICOMOS and ICCROM and more detailed information on the reconstruction works be provided as well as to urgently suspend and review the proposed site development plan for the Shirvanshah's Palace complex;

3. To assist in establishing, as a matter of urgency, a programme for assistance for the preparation of a management plan and conservation plan as well as the updating of maps;
4. To provide assistance with the enforcement of laws and legislation and the upgrading of the management structures;
5. To establish training courses in collaboration with ICCROM for national specialists in the field of conservation and restoration;
6. To establish guidelines for restoration of historic buildings and development;
7. To assist with the development of a Master Plan which takes into account all aspects of conservation, preservation, development and tourism management;
8. Prepare and implement a programme of information to raise awareness among local and regional authorities, agencies and the public of the importance of the World Heritage Convention, the site's historical, architectural and archaeological values, in support of the conservation of the site;

1. Terms of Reference

Based on the request by the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee and taking into consideration the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, the Mission is to:

- Consult with the relevant authorities and institutions in Baku to discuss the current situation and the overall state of conservation of the World Heritage property taking into account the status of the site at the time of its inscription;
- review specifically any impacts of building and development projects on the World Heritage values of the site and the location of building projects and/or demolished sites;
- Assess the ascertained and potential threats to the site, taking into account *Operational Guidelines* paragraphs 80-82;
- Assess the adequacy of the boundary of the World Heritage designated area and its buffer zone;
- Assess the current situation of the site, its legal status, protection and conservation and review of existing legislation and/or the status of the Master Plan and the need for an integrated Management Plan;
- Explore and identify solutions for any problems assessed in collaboration with the national and local authorities at the site;
- provide a detailed mission report with a set of recommendation to be submitted to the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee;

2. Mission members

Mr. Wolfgang Reuther, Director, UNESCO Office in Moscow, (head of mission)
Alexandra Sayn-Wittgenstein, Europe Unit, Consultant, World Heritage Centre
Professor Todor Krastev, ICOMOS

3. Itinerary and Programme of the Mission

Thursday, 17 October

p.m. Arrival of mission members, accommodation in Hotel

Friday, 18 October

9:00 - 11:00 Meeting, general overview of the situation.

Mr Rizvan Bayramov, Head of the Department for the Protection and Conservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments,

11:00 - 14:30 Visit of *Shirvanshah's Palace Complex State Historical-Architectural Preserve Museum*.
Mrs. Sevda Dadashova, Director of Museum

16:00 - 17:00 Visit to the *Maiden Tower* and initial assessment of the Icheri Sheher (Old City)

17:00 - 19:00 Meeting with the *Minister of Culture*, Mr. Bulbuloghu

Saturday, 19 October

9:00 - 12:00 Meeting with the Personnel of the *Department for the Protection and Conservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments*, information on institutional structure, legislation and recent developments

12:00 - 14:30 Meeting with the Personnel of the "*Azerberpa*" *Scientific Research Institute for Restoration and Conservation of Architectural Monuments*, Mr. Jafar Giyasi, Director and Head Architect, Mr. Adalat Mammadov, Architect, Mr. Chingiz Houseynov, Architect

15:30 - 18:00 Visit to the "Ateshgah Temple" in Sourakhani District (Fire Worshipper's Temple)

18:00 - 19:00 Icheri Sheher, inspection of construction projects and evaluation of the state of conservation of the site

Sunday, 20 October

9:00 - 18:00 Visit to the *Gobustan State Historical Artistic Preserve* (site proposed for inscription - 2003/2004)

Monday, 21 October

10:00 - 13:00 Meeting in the *Scientific Research Institute for Restoration and Conservation of Architectural Monuments*, discussion regarding the nomination dossier of the "Gobustan Rock Art site", assistance for completion of documents to be submitted before 1 February 2003

14:30 - 15:00 Meeting at the *Academy of Science*.
Mr. Rasim Efendiyev, Director, Mr. Ertogrul Salamzadeh, Deputy-Director

15:00 - 16:00 Meeting with *Member of the Scientific Methodological Council*.
Professor Shamil Fatullayev, Correspondent of the Academy of Science

16:00 - 17:00 Continuation of inspection of Icheri Sheher

17:30 - 19:00 Meeting at Office of the *Cultural Heritage Support Project, World Bank Project*.
Mr. Roustam A. Moukhtarov, PIU coordinator; Information on the World Bank financed projects

Tuesday, 22 October

10:00 - 12:30 Meeting in the *Town Hall*.

Mrs. Fiduma M. Huseynova, Vice-Mayor of Baku, Mr. Akif Abdullayev, Head
of Department for Architecture and Town Planning

16:00 - 17:00 Inspection of Icheri Sheher

17:30 - 18:30 Meeting in *Icheri Sheher State Historical Architectural Preserve*.
Mr. Mubariz Guliyev, Director (site manager)

Wednesday, 23 October

a.m. Departure