

Summary of the Second Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees of UNESCO Culture Convention

(Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 26 September 2016, 10:30-12:30)

On 26 September 2016, the six Chairpersons of the UNESCO Culture Conventions met at UNESCO Headquarters for a second time, after a first session held in Bonn, Germany in June 2015 (for further details please see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1305/>).

The meeting was chaired by Mr Francesco Bandarin, the Assistant Director-General of Culture of UNESCO a.i., and attended by Ms Artemis Papathanasiou, Chairperson of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; Ms Maria Vlazaki, Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of State Parties to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; Ms Lale Ülker, Chairperson of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; Mr Yonas Desta Tsegaye, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Committee for the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; and Mr Laurent Stefanini, Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee of the UNESCO 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. H. E. Mr Alejandro Palma Cerna, Chairperson of the fifth session of the meeting of State Parties to the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, joined the meeting by video message. The agenda of the meeting is enclosed in Annex I.

Mr Bandarin delivered his opening remarks and invited the audience to continue the discussion on the two key items on the agenda, namely the safeguarding of cultural heritage and cultural diversity in times of conflict; and the role of UNESCO's Culture Conventions in supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In his speech, Mr Bandarin underscored the importance of universal ratification of all the Culture Conventions and called for the regular exchange of information among national counterparts. He also referred to the Strategy for the reinforcement of the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict adopted by the 38th session of the General Conference in November 2015, and emphasized that the support of the relevant Governing Bodies of the Conventions is crucial in this regard. He also described the numerous ways UNESCO's Culture Conventions directly support Member States in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. He concluded by raising the issue of sustainability of the Conventions and called for their reinforcement with the support of State Parties.

Each Chairperson of the six Committees of the Cultural Conventions took the floor in the following order:

Ms Papathanasiou presented a number of important activities carried out by the Second Protocol Intergovernmental Committee, including its appeal to Iraq and Syria to become party to the Second Protocol, and its encouragement of States Parties, particularly those involved in armed conflicts, to submit at risk cultural property for enhanced protection. She recalled the different

statements issued, addressing the destruction of cultural property and the development of synergies between the Bureaus of the 1999 Second Protocol Intergovernmental Committee and the 1970 Convention Subsidiary Committee, and specifically mentioned the successful joint meeting of those Bureaus in December 2015. Finally, she welcomed the adoption of the UNESCO Strategy for the reinforcement of the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict and stressed its important role in the implementation of UNESCO's Conventions for the protection of cultural property and, in particular, the 1954 Hague Convention.

Ms Vlazaki highlighted the importance of the Subsidiary Committee for the implementation of the 1970 Convention and underlined the successful adoption of the Operational Guidelines. She encouraged the Members of the Subsidiary Committee to raise global awareness of the situation of cultural heritage in countries facing conflict. She pointed to the statement on the prevention of illicit trafficking with a special focus on countries in conflict adopted at the Third Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention in May 2015. She recalled the obligations contained in the UN Security Council Resolutions 2199 and 2253 and the necessity of cooperation and information sharing with INTERPOL, customs officials and the art market.

In discussing the interplay among UNESCO's Culture Conventions, Ms Ülker welcomed the meeting of the six Chairpersons as an opportunity to reflect on the current synergies between the Culture Conventions and the way forward. She pointed out current threats that harm not only heritage, but also cultural diversity, pluralism and intercultural dialogue, all of which support lasting peace and sustainable development. Noting that the principles of sustainable development are mainstreamed in national processes related to World Heritage, she declared that the Committee is preparing a post-conflict recovery strategy.

In his video message, Mr Palma Cerna stated that conflict, political turmoil, adverse geopolitical and economic situations, and rapid and unsustainable urban development in coastal areas, damage underwater cultural heritage. Echoing the call to encourage the exchange of information and synergies among the Culture Conventions, he called for greater cooperation and monitoring to prevent the pillaging and illicit trafficking of underwater cultural heritage.

Mr Desta Tsegaye noted that the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in times of emergency is a growing concern for the States Parties to the 2003 Convention and will be for the first time the subject of one agenda item at the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. He suggested that apart from the normative framework, the synergies amongst the Conventions could perhaps be best achieved in the operationalization of each instrument. He invited the participants to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention, which will take place in Addis Ababa later this year from 28 November to 2 December.

Mr Stefanini also praised the initiative behind the organization of the meeting of six Chairpersons and appealed to Member States to ratify the 2005 Convention. He presented a number of critical activities carried out by the States Parties and emphasized the importance of promoting the diversity of cultural expressions for the achievement of 2030 Agenda and long-lasting peace. He also introduced the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), established under the 2005 Convention to support the cultural and creative industries in developing countries, which explicitly

aims to promote the role of culture in sustainable development. Finally, he stated that new draft operational guidelines on digital technologies will be presented and discussed at the next Intergovernmental Committee meeting in December 2016. The discussions on this occasion will better measure the impact of digital technologies on the development of policies to promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

During the discussion, several questions were raised. The Representative of Spain asked about the challenges facing the protection of heritage in the times of conflict. The Representative of Tunisia enquired about UNESCO's preventative strategies and risk management in relation to the growing threats to cultural sites. The Representative of Japan requested more details on the synergies between the 1954 and 1972 Conventions as well as between the 1954 and 1970 Conventions.

In response to these questions, the Chairpersons presented the ongoing preventative measures taken by the UNESCO Culture Conventions and encouraged the State Parties to follow the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee, to be resumed in October 2016 at the UNESCO Headquarters. In particular, the participants were invited to observe item 10B, "Follow-up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for all regions", on synergies between the 1954 and 1972 Conventions. The Director of the Division for Heritage Ms Rössler informed the participants about the outcomes of the international expert meeting of the 2001 Convention held on 22-23 September 2016 and highlighted the linkages between 1970 and 2001 Conventions regarding pillaging and illicit trafficking. The Assistant Director-General also encouraged the 2003 and 2005 Conventions to discuss the issue of conflicts during their statutory meetings.

Suggestions were made by the Representative of Palestine on the protection of cultural property in the Arab region. The Palestinian Delegation asked if there had been any follow-up regarding an inventory list of cultural objects and sites that are not yet inscribed on the World Heritage List, and if it is available on the website. Furthermore, he suggested the automatic granting of enhanced protection to sites included on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Assistant Director-General concluded on the first topic by referring to the International Observatory of Syrian Cultural Heritage. He recognized the need to monitor the cultural properties in conflict areas, and agreed that tools could be further developed. Ms Rössler mentioned the training programmes organized in cooperation with ICCROM on "First Aid to Cultural Built Heritage in Syria", as well as the measures taken in the event of armed conflicts and emphasized the importance of joining forces with the other Culture Conventions in this regard.

The second item on the agenda concerned the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda (SDGs). The six Chairpersons emphasized the key role of synergies between the Conventions in order to achieve the SDGs and highlighted the importance of all the stakeholders working together in order to promote the crucial role culture has in human development.

During the discussion, suggestions were made by the Representative of Kuwait to further enhance the visibility of the 2001 Convention, in order to reach a better understanding of the issues facing underwater cultural heritage.

The Assistant Director-General closed the discussion by informing the participants that a summary of the meeting, including the suggestions therein made, and all the relevant decisions taken by the statutory bodies would be made available on the Convention webpages.

Annex I

Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees of UNESCO Culture Conventions

Second session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II

26 September 2016

Provisional Agenda

<u>Monday, 26 September (Room II)</u>		
10 am – 10. 30 am	Registration of participants and observers	
10. 30 am – 10. 35 am	1.	Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO
10. 35 am – 11. 15 am	2.	Interventions by the Chairpersons on Safeguarding cultural heritage in times of conflict
		Discussions
11. 15 am – 11. 55 am	3.	Interventions by the Chairpersons on the role of the UNESCO Cultural Conventions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
		Discussions
11. 55 am - 12 pm	Closing Remarks	

List of Chairpersons participating in the meeting

- **Ms Artemis Papathanasiou**
Chairperson of the Committee of the Second Protocol to The Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

- **Ms Maria Vlazaki**

Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

- **Ms Lale Ulker**

Chairperson of the fortieth session of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

- **H.E. Alejandro Palma Cerna**

Chairperson of the fifth session of the Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

- **Mr Yonas Desta Tsegaye**

Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **H.E. Mr Laurent Stefanini**

Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Annex II

List of the Decisions regarding synergies among UNESCO Culture Conventions

1. *20-21 December 2012, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters*
SEVENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT
Decision 7.COM 3 (Synergies between the Second Protocol and the World Heritage Convention)
Decision 7.COM 6 (Synergies between the Second Protocol and the World Heritage Convention)
2. *18-19 December 2014, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters*
NINTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT
DECISION 9.COM 7
DECISION 9.COM 13
3. *10-12 June 2015, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters*
CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS
Fifth ordinary session
Resolution 5.CP 7
4. *29 June 2015, Bonn, Germany*
MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEES OF UNESCO CULTURE CONVENTIONS
Joint Statement by the Chairpersons of the Committees of the UNESCO Culture Conventions
5. *28 June-8 July 2015, Bonn, Germany*
THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, UNESCO 1972 CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE
Decision 39 COM 10B.5
Decision 39 COM 11
6. *28-30 September 2015, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters*

THIRD SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE OF THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UNESCO 1970 CONVENTION ON THE MEANS OF PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING THE ILLICIT IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

DECISION 3.SC/ 4.3

7. *2 November 2015, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters*
38TH SESSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE, UNESCO
38 C/49 Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the event of armed conflict

8. *7 December 2015, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters*
Recommendation of Joint Meeting of the Bureau for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and Bureau of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention

9. *10-11 December 2015, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris,*
TENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT
Decision 10. COM 3
Decision 10. COM 4

10. *July 2016, Istanbul, Turkey*
FORTIETH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, UNESCO 1972 CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE
Decision 40 COM 5A

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF
CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI, 20-21 December 2012**

Decision 7.COM 3 (Synergies between the Second Protocol and the World Heritage Convention)

The Committee,

1. Recalling the decision of its fifth meeting regarding document CLT-10/CONF/204/4 and the recent request of its Bureau with regard to the development of synergies between the Second Protocol and the World Heritage Convention,
2. Takes note of document CLT-12/7.COM/CONF.201/3 concerning synergies between the Second Protocol and the World Heritage Convention;
3. Requests the Secretariat to ensure that synergies foreseen in document CLT-12/7.COM/CONF.201/3 apply at all levels when assisting Parties with the identification, submission of proposals for enhanced protection, inclusion of cultural property on the List, and protection and safeguarding measures of cultural property both under the 1999 Second Protocol and the World Heritage Convention;
4. Thanks the Secretariat for its work;
5. Welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat to elaborate the cooperation between secretariats of different standard-setting instruments.

Decision 7.COM 6 (Synergies between the Second Protocol and the World Heritage Convention)

The Committee,

1. Recalling its decision adopted during its fifth meeting concerning synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol and the other relevant UNESCO instruments and programmes,
2. Having examined the document CLT-12/7.COM/CONF.201/6, and thanking Belgium for having prepared it,
3. Welcomes the reinforcement of synergies that this proposal could establish between the 1999 Second Protocol and the 1972 World Heritage Convention ;
4. Calls on States Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol to apply for the granting of Enhanced Protection for their cultural properties that are already inscribed on the World Heritage List;
5. Invites the Director-General to:
 - raise the awareness of the World Heritage Committee regarding possible synergies between the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 1954 Hague Convention and particularly its 1999 Second Protocol;
 - propose to the World Heritage Committee to consider the concrete proposal detailed above on the modification of the format for the nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List as well as to take into consideration the synergies in the framework of the Periodic Reports;

6. Requests the Secretariat to present a progress report based on the work accomplished to its eighth meeting.

**NINTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL
PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XI, 18-19 December 2014**

DECISION 9.COM 7

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/7,
2. Welcomes further development of synergies with other UNESCO's normative instruments in the field of culture, programmes and strengthening partnerships;
3. Notes the establishment of the International Discussion Platform on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its work;
4. Invites the Secretariat to continue the development of synergies with other UNESCO normative instruments and programmes as well as other relevant International Humanitarian Law instruments and strengthening partnerships for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and to inform the Committee at its Tenth Meeting of progress achieved;
5. Invites the Director-General to organise at least once a year consultation meetings of the Chairpersons of the Statutory Bodies established by the Culture Conventions, having as a subject inter alia developing synergies among those Conventions and where relevant report back to the different Statutory Bodies.

DECISION 9.COM 13

The Committee,

1. Recalling its Decisions 7.COM 3 and 7.COM 6, and Decisions 37 COM 12.II and 38 COM 5A adopted by the World Heritage Committee,
2. Having examined the document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/13 and thanking Belgium for preparing it,
3. Appreciating the proposals set out in the Annex to the aforementioned document;
4. Encourages all the States Parties to the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol to lend support in the appropriate circles to the Committee's proposed amendments;

5. Requests its Chairperson and the Committee's Bureau to take the necessary steps to make the World Heritage Committee aware of the importance of lending support to these proposed amendments;

6. Also requests the Director-General to forward all the relevant documents for consideration by the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee;

7. Finally requests the Director-General to propose to the World Heritage Committee to consider, within the framework of the preparation of the third periodic reporting cycle on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the synergies to develop between sections I and II and the national reports required by the Hague Convention and the Second Protocol.

**CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF
CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS**

**Fifth ordinary session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
10-12 June 2015**

Resolution 5.CP 7

The Conference of Parties,

1. Having examined document CE/15/5.CP/7 and its Annex;
2. Takes note of the Secretariat's report on its activities for the period 2014-2015 submitted to the Conference of Parties;
3. Invites each Party to determine the most appropriate mechanism to support the activities carried out by the Secretariat at Headquarters and in the Field;
4. Agrees that the following activities are essential for decision-making during the sessions of the governing bodies and implementation of the Convention and the necessary funds should be ensured as a matter of priority, despite the current financial situation:
 - Capacity-development and related knowledge management and production activities;
 - International Fund for Cultural Diversity, the implementation of its fundraising and communication strategy;
5. Encourages the Secretariat to continue developing synergies with other cultural Conventions of UNESCO;
6. Requests the Secretariat to present, at its sixth ordinary session, a report on its activities covering the period 2016-2017 that correspond with those identified in the 38 C/5.

Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees of UNESCO Culture Conventions

29 June 2015, Bonn

Joint Statement by the Chairpersons of the Committees of the UNESCO Culture Conventions

1. We, the current Chairpersons of the Intergovernmental Committees of the six UNESCO Culture Conventions, met in Bonn, Germany, on 29 June 2015, on the occasion of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, to join forces with the Director-General of UNESCO in order to strengthen synergies among UNESCO's Culture Conventions and to ensure that these conventions reinforce each other and act as a unified corpus for the fulfillment of their complementary goals, reflecting a holistic vision.

2. This meeting took place in the context of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, which provides a unique opportunity to reflect upon the future of the Organization's standard-setting action in the face of contemporary challenges and emerging needs. Moreover it is intended to provide further momentum to the international community's efforts to protect cultural diversity, safeguard cultural and natural heritage, and nurture creativity and humanism worldwide in pursuit of peace and mutual understanding. This is particularly relevant as the United Nations is advancing towards the adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda, in the implementation of which the links between culture, sustainable development and lasting peace should be recognized and promoted.

3. The strategic importance of embracing and building upon our cultural and natural heritage, in all its diversity and richness, for humanity as a whole, cannot be overemphasized. This heritage engenders and nourishes our human identity and potential, our cultural diversity and creative expression as fundamental human rights. Its full assimilation for scientific, cultural and educational purposes lies at the core of equitable and sustainable development, increases the shared knowledge of the historical achievements of humanity, enriches the life of all peoples and inspires dialogue, and mutual respect and appreciation among nations. This essential contribution to our collective well-being is especially necessary in the current context in which global challenges continue to mount and the consolidation of a humanist vision is crucial.

4. In recent decades, new approaches for a strengthened partnership to nurture and comprehend our shared heritage have evolved, creating the potential for enhanced forms of understanding and international cooperation. The successive elaboration of the six UNESCO culture conventions has played a key role in this regard. Each of these conventions has contributed to this process by addressing a different dimension of the complex task of protecting, safeguarding and understanding cultural and natural heritage, at all times and under any circumstances, with full respect for cultural diversity and creative expression and ensuring access to culture for all. By virtue of their complementarity, they constitute a robust standard-setting body to guide the cooperative action of the international community in implementing preventive and

corrective measures in accordance with universally recognized and shared ethical principles and duties, and with the support of science, communication and education.

5. In this context, we underline the need for a renewed political will to support UNESCO's culture conventions as a whole in helping to achieve equitable and sustainable development and peace worldwide. In particular, we encourage the United Nations to ensure that the protection, safeguarding and understanding of cultural and natural heritage, cultural diversity and creative expression worldwide be recognized as a cross-cutting issue in the implementation of the interrelated goals of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

6. We draw attention to the urgent need to enhance the integrated interpretation and implementation of the set of UNESCO's Culture Conventions especially in the face of disturbing trends, such as the proliferation of hate crimes against cultural heritage, its intentional targeting and destruction, the pillaging and clandestine excavating of archaeological sites, the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and criminal and terrorist threats, all of which constitute further challenges to the protection of cultural and natural heritage worldwide. In particular, we underline the need to strengthen UNESCO's capacity to address the current conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and other regions.

7. We invite all relevant actors to step up efforts to increase the effectiveness of the work of the UNESCO Cultural Conventions governing bodies and enhance their financial sustainability, as necessary conditions to ensuring the adequate implementation of the conventions. In particular, we call on stakeholders to provide the additional financial and human resources that are essential to optimize the integrated implementation of the conventions and maintain their credibility.

8. We call for systematic efforts to continue appraising the scope and effectiveness of the set of UNESCO cultural conventions, with particular regard to new and emerging trends, and to reflect on possible modalities for improving their integrated interpretation, implementation and adequate follow-up. We recognize the increasing efforts deployed by the Secretariat and the governing bodies to enhance the synergies and mutual reinforcement among the six UNESCO culture conventions, and encourage further sustained efforts to achieve this goal, tapping into the full potential of the institutional innovation at UNESCO.

9. Finally we recommend that the Chairpersons meet regularly to take stock of progress and define a common vision forward.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND
NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-ninth session
Bonn, Germany
28 June - 8 July 2015

Decision: 39 COM 10B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-15/39.COM 10B,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 10A**, **35 COM 10A**, **36 COM 10A**, **37 COM 10A** and **38 COM 5F** adopted respectively at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions,
3. Congratulates the States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* for having actively participated and completed the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise and takes note of their efforts to ensure relevant follow-up at the regional, national and site levels;
4. Notes with appreciation that the outcomes of the Second Cycle relate fully to the main purposes of the Periodic Reporting exercise as defined by Paragraph 201 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Also notes that valuable feedback has been received from States Parties and other World Heritage stakeholders with regard to the process, format, relevance, use and analysis of data derived from the Periodic Reporting;
6. Further notes that the existing results reporting framework, which includes the Periodic Reports, should be strengthened through the development of comprehensive indicators and benchmarks to improve follow-up on progress made by State Parties with the implementation of both the 1972 *Convention* and the 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, further to Recommendation 1 of the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector, 1972 *Convention*, acknowledged by Decision **38 COM 5F.2** of the Committee, according to which the matter will be addressed during the Reflection Period on Periodic Reporting;
7. Decides to suspend the third cycle of Periodic Reporting and launch a two-year Periodic Reporting Reflection Period from 2015-2017;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to bring this matter to the attention of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the *Convention*, at its 20th session (Paris, 2015), in an

information document and also requests that the comments of the States Parties be sought on the matters of reviewing the process, format, relevance, use and analysis of data and efficiency of the Periodic Reporting exercise as well as synergies with other UNESCO culture conventions, preferably by means of a questionnaire;

9. Calls upon States Parties and other World Heritage stakeholders to provide extra-budgetary resources to ensure a proper reflection, including through hosting at least two Periodic Reporting reflection meetings with the participation of selected representatives of States Parties from all regions, Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field offices, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, category 2 centres as well as experts that have been involved in the second cycle of Periodic Reporting;

Further decides that a small expert working group will be entrusted with drafting an updated format of the questionnaire and proposals for improving the process, relevance, analysis and use of data, further to feedback of States Parties and outcomes of Reflection meetings, in accordance with Terms of Reference which will be included in the progress report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee at the 40th session in 2016;

11. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre to present for examination by the World Heritage Committee an updated format of the questionnaire and proposals for improving the process, relevance, analysis and use of data, as well as a proposal of a revised version of Chapter V of the *Operational Guidelines* (Periodic Reporting on the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*) and Annex 7 (Format for the Periodic Reporting of the application of the *World Heritage Convention*), at its 41st session in 2017.

Decision: 39 COM 11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/11, WHC-15/39.COM/10.B, WHC-15/39.COM/13A and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.13A,
2. Recalling Decision 37 COM 12.II, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Decides to establish a Consultative Body under Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure during its 39th session;
4. Adopts the proposed revisions of the Operational Guidelines, as presented in the marked-up version attached to this Decision², namely concerning paragraphs 28, 31, 38, 40, 44, 62, 66, 71, 80, 98, 99, 102, 111, 112, 115, 116, 122, 123, 128, 132, 140, 141, 143, 148, 149, 155, 159, 160, 164, 165, 166, 168, 169, 176, 180, 181, 184, 192, 232, 241, 252, 260, 262, 263, 265, 266, 275, 276, 278, Annex 2B, 5, 6, 13 and 14 as well as the Bibliography;
5. Decides to extend the mandate of the ad hoc working group extended by one extra regional group representative who is not a member of the World Heritage Committee, established at the 38th session (Doha, 2014) to be convened by Turkey, to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund;

6. Further decides to suggest that the 20th General Assembly of States Parties in November 2015 discuss the recommendations of the ad hoc working group in order for the latter to submit its final recommendations to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016 for a decision;

2 The adopted version, dated 8 July 2015, is available in PDF format at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/39COM/decisions>

Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee WHC-15/39.COM/19, page 244
at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015)

7. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to produce, subject to extra-budgetary funding, a guidance document on urban heritage, including its definition, identification, conservation and management, based on the Historic Urban Landscape approach;

8. Also decides that Annex 3 to the Operational Guidelines should be reviewed entirely so as to include definitions and relevant guidance for States Parties in the preparation of Tentative Lists, nominations, management and reporting systems and also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to organise an Experts meeting, subject to extra-budgetary funding, to provide recommendations for the revision of Annex 3;

9. Welcomes the reflections on the interaction between the World Heritage Convention and the 1954 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol (1999) and further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Hague Convention (1954), to consider options for further developing concrete synergies and coordinating reporting mechanisms between the World Heritage Convention and the Second Protocol (1999) of the Hague Convention (1954) for the next revision of the Operational Guidelines in 2017 and while revising the Periodic Reporting Format during the Reflection Period towards the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

10. Also welcomes the inclusion of paragraphs which address issues related to indigenous peoples and World Heritage and reiterates its decision to re-examine the recommendations of the International Expert Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples (Copenhagen, 2012) following the results of the discussions to be held by the Executive Board on the UNESCO policy on indigenous peoples;

11. Also decides, on an exceptional basis, to re-examine Paragraphs 61 and 68 as well as Annex 2A at its 40th session in 2016;

12. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to propose a revised version of Chapter V and Annex 7 of the Operational Guidelines to be examined by the Committee at its 41th session in 2017;

13. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to undertake consultations on Paragraph 108 and subsequent paragraphs where references are made to management plans and management systems in order to address inconsistencies and ambiguities, and to provide further clarifications based on current thinking and the contents of the Resource Manuals, for consideration during the next revision of the Operational Guidelines in 2019;

14. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre to proceed with the corrections of language inconsistencies between the English and French versions of the Operational Guidelines.

Third session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (UNESCO, Paris, 1970)

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI

28-30 September 2015

DECISION 3.SC 4.3

The Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties,

1. Recalling the meeting of Chairpersons of all UNESCO Cultural Conventions (Bonn, 29 June 2015),
2. Having examined the Greek initiative to pursue the strengthening of synergies between the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention and the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, established by the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954,
3. Approves the initiative as proposed;
4. Requests the Secretariat to facilitate a meeting among the Bureaus of the respective Committees before the forthcoming meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Hague Convention (8 December 2015);
5. Decides that such meeting will work on the following topics:
 - a. Exchange of relevant information on the destruction of cultural heritage in armed conflict,
 - b. Exchange of relevant information on the organization of awareness-raising and training of military, police and customs forces on the protection of cultural heritage in times of armed conflict and fight against the illicit traffic of movable heritage.

Joint Meeting of the Bureaus of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Subsidiary Committee for the 1970 Convention

(7 December 2015, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters)

Recommendation

1. Welcomes the debate related to synergies between the respective instruments;
2. Requests the submission of a Report prepared by the Rapporteurs of both Bureaus based on the proposals of the Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention, and the Secretariat to the respective bodies;
3. Encourages the Director-General to hold the meeting of all Chairpersons of the six cultural conventions on the occasion of the Fourth Session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention (UNESCO, September 2016).

**TENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XI, 10-11 December 2015

DECISION 10.COM 3

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-15/10.COM/CONF.203/3,
2. Recalling its Decision 9.COM 6, whereby the Secretariat was entrusted with the task of conducting consultations with the Parties with a view to developing methodologies for analysing the three criteria outlined in Article 10 of the 1999 Second Protocol,
3. Taking note of the comments by the Parties, the ICRC and the International Committee of the Blue Shield (CCAAA, ICA, ICOM, ICOMOS, and IFLA) during the consultation phase, as well as the orientations formulated by the Secretariat,
4. Also taking note of Japan's observations concerning document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/13 "Proposal to Strengthen Synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1972 World Heritage Convention",
5. Requests the Chairperson with the support of the Bureau to continue holding the necessary consultations in order to assist the Secretariat in producing preliminary draft statutory modifications of the Guidelines;
6. Further requests the Secretariat to continue the work initiated and to submit to the Eleventh Meeting this draft;
7. Requests furthermore the Secretariat to present an information document on the notions of "control" and "jurisdiction" as set forth in Articles 10 (c) and 11 (2) of the Second Protocol under international law and international case-law.

DECISION 10.COM 4

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-15/10.COM/CONF.203/4,
2. Welcomes Decision 39 COM 11 of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, Germany) on the development of synergies and coordinating reporting mechanisms between the World Heritage Convention and the 1999 Second Protocol;
3. Invites the Secretariat to pursue discussions with the World Heritage Centre in order to achieve concrete synergies for enhanced protection, in particular through the revision of the periodic reporting format of World Heritage and finally, in the framework of monitoring missions related to cultural property inscribed both on the World Heritage List and the

List of Cultural Properties under Enhanced Protection, to report back to the next Committee;

4. Also welcomes further development of synergies with other UNESCO standard-setting instruments, programmes and other relevant international humanitarian law instruments, and the strengthening of partnerships;
5. Notes with appreciation the organization of the first meeting of the Chairpersons of UNESCO's Culture Conventions on 29 June 2015 (Bonn, Germany) and recommends the organization of the next respective meeting in September 2016;
6. Notes as part of good practice the joint meeting of its Bureau and that of the Subsidiary Committee of the 1970 Convention and invites its Bureau to also develop such synergies with the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
7. Also notes UNESCO's action for the "Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict" (Document 38 C/49) and invites the Secretariat to continue the development of synergies with UNESCO's standard-setting instruments, including the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and programmes and the strengthening of partnerships and to inform the Committee at its Eleventh Meeting of the progress achieved.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND
NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fortieth session

Istanbul, Turkey

July 2016

Decision: 40 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/5A,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 5A** adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of the Expected Result to ensure that “tangible heritage is identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 *Convention*”, and the five strategic objectives as presented in Document WHC/16/40.COM/5A;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to inform the Committee of relevant expert meetings and their results in a timely manner;
5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to develop interactive orientation sessions for new Committee members;
6. Welcomes the synergies among the Culture Conventions in the framework of the Culture Conventions Liaison Group (CCLG) and the first meeting of the Chairpersons of all six UNESCO Culture Conventions;
7. Also welcomes the enhanced cooperation and synergies with the biodiversity-related conventions and programmes and invites the World Heritage Centre to continue its engagement with the synergy processes;
8. Invites the States Parties to support the activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre as well as give due consideration to make mandatory and voluntary contributions necessary for the sustained operations of the Centre and implementation of the *Convention*;
9. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present, at its 41st session, a report on its activities.