

**EXPERT MEETING FOR THE SERIAL TRANSNATIONAL WORLD HERITAGE  
NOMINATION OF “SILK ROADS: FERGANA – SYRDARYA CORRIDOR”  
Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan (14 November 2016)**

**Kyzylorda Action Plan**

14 November 2016

**Background**

As follow-up to the Almaty Agreement, adopted on 24–25 November 2015 during the Fourth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads held in Almaty (Kazakhstan), an expert meeting for the serial transnational World Heritage nomination of the “Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor” was held in Kyzylorda (Kazakhstan) on 14 November 2016. The expert meeting brought together governmental representatives and experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan along with representatives of UNESCO and international resource persons to discuss further technical assistance and cooperation. The participation of representatives of the Russian Federation was also welcomed. The organisation of this expert meeting has benefited from the close collaboration between the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO, the Kazakhstan National World Heritage Committee and UNESCO (specifically the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in Almaty), and was made possible through the generous financial support of the Administration of Kyzylorda Region (Kazakhstan) and the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project “Support for Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia (Phase II)”.

**Aim**

The aim of the Kyzylorda expert meeting was to set the way forward for the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor World Heritage serial and transnational nomination. At the occasion of the Kyzylorda Meeting, the general guiding principles and the coordination of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya corridor nomination process were reviewed. The Meeting also presented an opportunity to review the harmonization of the component parts of this potential nomination to be presented by four States Parties. Finally, the Meeting also allowed discussing the potential attributes and statement of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor.

**Main Outcomes**

The participants of the meeting agreed the following:

1. Elect the newly established Centre for the Rapprochement of Cultures (Almaty, Kazakhstan) as the Secretariat for the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor nomination, with the support of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Culture and Sport and the UNESCO Office in Almaty. The function of the Secretariat is to facilitate communication between stakeholders, to coordinate the process of preparing the nomination between the four participating countries, and to liaise with the IICC Xi'an (China), as the Secretariat of Silk Roads Coordination Committee;
2. The Ministries of Culture and the National Commissions for UNESCO of the four participating countries will make the final appointments of their national members to the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya corridor nomination Working Group (3-4 per country) and inform the World Heritage Centre and the Secretariat for the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor nomination;
3. The Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport of Kazakhstan will act as (co-)Chair of the Working Group;

4. The next venue of the Working Group meeting will be at the Centre for the Rapprochement of Cultures in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in the second half of 2017, pending the final decision of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Culture and Sport and the Secretariat for the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syradarya corridor nomination;
5. With the assistance of the Secretariat, there is a need for further consultation, discussion and agreement, between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan about the selection and harmonisation of the component parts; the potential attributes of OUV; and the draft Statement of the Outstanding Universal Value for the Silk Roads : Fergana-Syradarya Corridor. An agreement is necessary between the four participating States Parties prior the Fifth Silk Roads Coordination Committee Meeting (foreseen to be held in Iran in 2017);
6. The information from the Russian experts on the section of the Silk Roads on the territory of Russian Federation was taken into consideration.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Delegates of the expert meeting for the serial transnational World Heritage nomination of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya corridor expressed their gratitude to:

- The Government of Kazakhstan, and in particular the National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO, the Ministry of Culture and Sport, the Kazakhstan National World Heritage Committee and the Administration of Kyzylorda region and other authorities in Kazakhstan, for hosting the meeting, for their warm hospitality, for their support, and for the provision of favourable conditions that allowed the successful organisation of the meeting;
- The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Offices in Almaty and Tashkent, and the international resource persons for facilitating the meeting.

Moreover, the participants were extremely appreciative of the financial contributions that made this meeting possible, and especially the generous support of the Administration of Kyzylorda region (Kazakhstan), of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project "Support for Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia (Phase II)", and of the Government of Kazakhstan.

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