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Paris, 31 January 2017

Dear Ms. Director,

In accordance with the Decision “40 COM 7B.60” adopted at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee held in 2016, in İstanbul, I have the pleasure to attach herewith the State of Conservation (SOC) report of the “Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape” for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

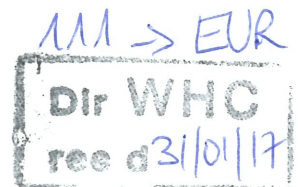
Please accept, Ms. Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ahmet Altay CENGİZER
Permanent Delegate

Encl: As stated.

Ms. Mechtild RÖSSLER
Director
World Heritage Center
UNESCO
Paris



STATE of CONSERVATION REPORT

DİYARBAKIR FORTRESS AND HEVSEL GARDENS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (Turkey) (No: 1488)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The World Heritage Committee requested an updated report by its Decision 40 COM 7B.60 on the state of conservation of the World Heritage Property “Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape”.

The information below is a summary of the current state of the conservation of the property and the work carried out by the State Party.

The property includes Diyarbakır Fortress and City Walls, Hevsel Gardens, Ten-Arched Bridge and Anzele Spring. The 1st Buffer Zone of property encompasses Sur İçi Urban Site, 2nd Buffer Zone includes Dicle Valley and some parts of the Yenişehir District.

The Sur İçi area, which is identified as the first buffer zone (B1) became an urban protected area in 1988, and the first Urban Conservation Plan for this site was approved in 1990. A renewed plan which strengthens the protection level of the historical fabric of the city was completed in 2012. All construction and conservation work at the Buffer Zone 1 within the Site Management Border will only be applied upon the approval of the Diyarbakır Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage. The Hevsel Gardens have been taken under protection within the legal law numbered 2863 (Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties) upon the decision of the Diyarbakır Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage dated to 29 May 2015 and numbered 3420.

For the purpose of the examination of damages on the monuments, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has established “Commissions of Detection and Investigation” consisting of architect, construction engineer, restaurateur, archeologist, museum researcher, art historian, construction technician, city planner, survey engineer under Diyarbakır Directorate of Survey and Monuments, Diyarbakır Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Museum Directorate and Diyarbakır Regional Directorate Restoration and Conservation Laboratory of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

According to the report produced by the Commissions there are no damages on the structural integrity and authenticity at the Diyarbakır Fortress, the İç Kale (citadel- inner castle), together with the Hevsel Gardens which constitute the components of the World Heritage Site during the terrorist acts and conflicts.

In line with the decision of the Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage of Diyarbakır dated 23.03.2016 and numbered 3872, temporary concrete blocks have been placed in front of walls and bastions in order to provide safety for the public and it has been found out that these have caused no damage.

After public order and safety related to the area have been established, passages located at the bastions and the wall have been closed to public and portable concrete blocks and iron plates and excavation rubble have been placed in order to provide safety for the public in accordance with the decision of the Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage of Diyarbakır dated 23.03.2016 and numbered 3872. Iron plates and excavation rubble will be removed later.

Within the Buffer Zone I (Urban Protected Area, Suriçi), documentation, together with project and restoration work related to registered and unregistered constructions within six existing neighborhoods (Savaş, Hasırlı, Cemal Yılmaz, Fatihpaşa, Dabanoğlu, Cevatpaşa) where the destruction was intensively experienced, are still continuing by teams belonging to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanism and Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and consisting of interdisciplinary specialists.

A scientific commission has been organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, in order to supervise the work which is planned to be conducted at the area because of the damages caused by the terrorist activities during the recent period at the urban protected area and the project work which will be conducted within the walls has been evaluated on 26.12.2016 between the authorized personnel from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums) and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (General Directorate of Construction Works). Within this context, project and restoration work related to 14 monumental constructions which have been damaged during the terrorist activities are still continuing.

In relation to rehabilitation of cultural heritage, as soon as a stable security environment is established within the Sur İçi Urban Site which constitutes the first buffer zone of “Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape”, the determined work will be completed by the related institutions and organizations under the supervision of the Site Manager so that cultural heritage values are protected against further damages. Following the completion of damage assessment and structural assessment studies inside the Sur İçi Urban Site, the work related to the empty parcels, completely destroyed traditional houses, preservation of partially or totally destroyed architectural heritage, new constructions and preservation of the social structure will be continued with continuous consultation with the Ministries, and regional and local managements in accordance with the recommendations of the scientific boards.