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Paris, 31 January 2017

Dear Ms. Director,

In accordance with the Decision "39 COM 7B.83" adopted at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee held in 2015, in Bonn, I have the pleasure to attach herewith the the State of Conservation (SOC) report of the "Historic Areas of Istanbul" for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

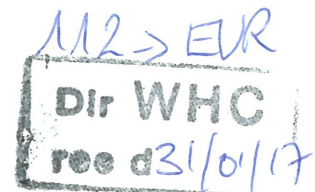
Please accept, Ms. Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.

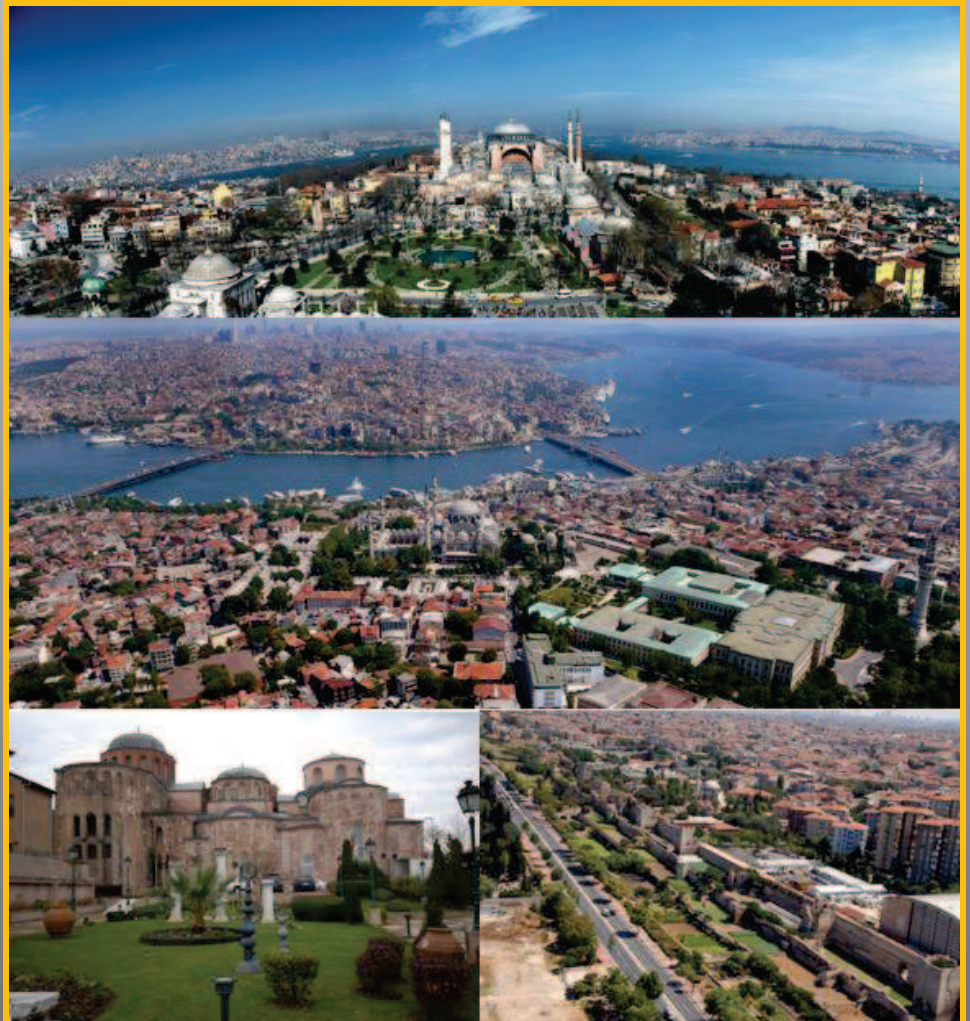


Ahmet Altay CENGİZER  
Permanent Delegate

Encl: As stated.

Ms. Mechtild RÖSSLER  
Director  
World Heritage Center  
UNESCO  
Paris





# HISTORIC AREAS OF ISTANBUL PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL SITE MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE -2017



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared based on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's recommendation in line with the progress report format presented to the UNESCO World Heritage Center by the state parties of the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The aim is to develop the practice of preparing an annual report to ensure coordination especially between authorized bodies and institutions of the UNESCO World Heritage Areas and to give information on the work done in these areas. This report consists of three parts. The first part includes information on the issues referred to in the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommendation (Bonn, Germany) such as the Management Plan Updating Work, the Eurasia Tunnel Project, the Yenikapı Project, the Civil Architecture Example Structures and the Renewal Areas. The second part provides information about the restoration work performed on civil architecture example structures and monuments including the world heritage areas on the Historic Peninsula. The third part is dedicated to education, awareness raising and promotion work carried out by various bodies.

**The Historic Peninsula Management Plan:** The updating of the Management Plan was completed in August 2016 taking into account the opinions of representatives of relevant bodies, academicians and experts, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommendations and the opinions of ICOMOS International. Due to the reorganization of site directorates by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the approval of the plan by relevant authorities will be completed in the upcoming period. However, the plan is to complete the Management Plan approved by relevant bodies before the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Krakow in 2017.

**The Eurasia Tunnel Project:** Significant improvements have been achieved in the design of the project. The tunnel operation building and some of the toll collection kiosks were moved to the Asian side to decrease the number of constructions on the Historic Peninsula on the European side. The altitude of the ventilation chimney on the European side was limited with 5 meters. The level pedestrian crossings in Yenikapı and Samatya of 180 meters and 50 meters respectively were constructed to reinforce the city-sea connection. The total length of the pedestrian crossings of 55 meters in 11 different points increased to 277 meters in total with the completion of the Eurasia Tunnel Project. The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality moved the Kennedy Avenue completely to the south of the Marble Tower, bringing the Marble Tower and the Land Walls together again. Officially inaugurated on 20 December 2016, the Eurasia Tunnel has been operating since 22 December 2016.

Relevant improvements have been made in the **Yenikapı Land Reclamation Project** in line with the recommendations and comments indicated in the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) Report. An Event Tent has been constructed on the reclaimed land to meet the performance and event venue needs of the city to organize performances, fairs, concerts, festivals and meetings on special days. The Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) work is still ongoing for the tent constructed over a land of 6,529,18 m<sup>2</sup>.

Within the scope of the **conservation and restoration of civil architecture examples** in the Area, there were various projects carried out by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Projects for Cultural Properties and the Municipality of Fatih in the World Heritage Area and on the Historic Peninsula in 2016.

**With respect to the Renewal Areas Projects,** as was indicated in the 2015 Progress Report, relevant revisions have been made in all of the projects planned and approved for all renewal areas. Within the scope of the work planned in the renewal areas, rather than concentrating only on the restoration and conservation of structures, the aim is to concentrate on the whole Area based on a holistic approach including the street fabric and its infrastructure. The Municipality of Fatih has revised the renewal area projects in question to ensure the effective participation of relevant stakeholders and to carry out certain parcel-based applications. Up-to-date information with respect to the projects is provided in the report.

**The second part** of the report concentrates on the restoration work carried out by various institutions on the Historic Peninsula including the world heritage areas. Detailed information on the restoration work carried out by the Directorate General of Foundations, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) Directorate of Projects for Cultural Properties and the Municipality of Fatih is provided as a table.

**The third part on Promotion, Awareness Raising and Education** provides detailed information on educational, promotional, awareness raising activities, publications as well as seminars, symposia and workshops carried out by the Site Management Directorate and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Conservation, Implementation and Inspection (KUDEB).

All of the information and documents provided in the report have been obtained from the authorized institutions and enterprises carrying out work in the Areas.