



## **UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS AND ROAD MAP** **FOR THE SAFEGUARDING SYRIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Outcome of the international expert meeting: **'Follow-up to the implementation of the UNESCO Action Plan for the Emergency Safeguarding of Syria's Cultural Heritage'** (2 - 4 June 2016, Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany)

JOINTLY ORGANIZED WITH:



### Introduction:

The meeting has been organized in order to take stock of the progress made on the implementation of the UNESCO road map adopted by the International Expert Meeting in May 2014.

It gathered experts from Syria and abroad and international experts, with the objective of nurturing a common vision on the safeguarding of Syrian heritage among them, from a technical and scientific point of view.

The experts expressed the overarching considerations that local communities are at the heart of the recovery process and constitute a driving force in the recovery plans, that Syrians are the major stakeholders and actors of the process and that cultural heritage should be harnessed for reconciliation and dialogue all across Syria. As the conflict is not over, strategies and approaches should evolve with the situation.

The following table presents the recommendations of both meetings (Paris, 2014 and Berlin, 2016), and gives an overview of UNESCO's response since 2014, as well as of its foreseen activities.

This road map is a work in progress and a tool for planning and coordination. It needs to be regularly updated with the inputs of all stakeholders. The proposed table covers activities up to end 2016.

Type of Heritage (B, M, IT, All*)	Expert Meeting Recommendations (May 2014 & June 2016)	Action Plan 2014	Update 2016	Implemented Activities by UNESCO	Foreseen activities by UNESCO	Timeline <sup>†</sup>		
						Urgent	Short	Medium
<b>I. LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b> (other related recommendations are found in the sections below)								
All	1. Ensure inclusive and active participation of local communities in the process of safeguarding cultural heritage during the conflict and in the recovery phase, with a focus on the youth from inside Syria and in the diaspora		X	Participation of local communities representatives in meetings and capacity buildings	Continued		X	
All	2. Engage with awareness raising, training and capacity building for local communities and involve them in damage assessment activities.		X	#Unite4Heritage campaign, Video clip <a href="http://www.unite4heritage.org/en/news/video-launch-value-of-heritage">http://www.unite4heritage.org/en/news/video-launch-value-of-heritage</a>	Training in disaster risk management		X	
<b>II. DOCUMENTATION, ARCHIVES, DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION</b>								
All	1. Locate documentation and archives on Syrian cultural heritage worldwide, share it with the national institutions responsible for cultural heritage and centralize information			Available documents provided May 2014 & June 2016 Meetings: Calls to the international community Regular exchanges with the international community of archaeologists, research and archive entities, museums, etc.	Sharing of available documents continued Meeting on documentation (Damascus as a pilot case) Meetings on specific archaeological sites			
B, M	1a. Call on all archaeological missions to provide an overview about the data in their possession, share documentation in digital format and get reports translated into Arabic when possible	X	X	Feb. 2015 & May, Sept 2016: Workshops on Inventories with the participation of international archaeological missions Aug. (2015): Workshops on Inventories and Documentation (Deir er-Zor Museum)		X		

\* B for Built, M for Movable, ITH for Intangible Heritage

<sup>†</sup> In this timeline, “short term” denotes the actions that can be undertaken immediately (i.e. during the time of conflict). “Mid-term” means that activities that can be implemented when partial access to the country is secured (e.g. through humanitarian agencies, or travelling of Syrian people to other countries). “Long term” refers to a post-conflict situation where access is possible for UNESCO and other heritage organizations.

			<p>Nov. 2016: First Aid support meeting for the Ancient City of Damascus</p> <p>July 2015: Workshops on Inventories and Documentation (Built heritage inventories)</p> <p>Observatory of Syrian cultural heritage, information sharing platform (<a href="https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/">https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/</a>)</p>			
M	2. Share information on stolen objects	X	<p>Nov. 2014 &amp; July, Dec 2015: workshops on illicit trafficking (Development of the national Police database)</p> <p>Jan. 2015: Workshop on movable heritage</p> <p>Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2199</p>	Continued		X
M	3. UNESCO to pursue its efforts in the implementation of article 17 of UN Security Council Resolution 2199	X	<p>UNESCO and Interpol coordinate the trimestral reports from all UN Member States on the implementation measures of UN Security Council Resolutions 2199 and 2253</p> <p>Dec. 2016: meeting to assess the implementation of UN Resolution 2199</p>	Continued		X
All	4. Assess/improve/complete inventories and documentation, involving all relevant institutions		<p>Regular coordination</p> <p>February, July, Aug. 2015 &amp; May, Sept 2016: Workshops on Inventories and Documentation (with the participation of the private sector in May &amp; Sept. 2016)</p>	Jan. 2017: Training on emergency recording and archiving of cultural heritage (with Cyark)	X	
M	4a. Inventory private collections of movable cultural heritage in Syria	X	<p>Sept., Oct., Nov. 2016: Training on digitization of archives (with DAI)</p>	Meeting on documentation (Damascus as a pilot case)		

All	5. Standardize documentation and ensure its accuracy		X	Police Database Feb., July, Aug. 2015 & May, Sept. 2016: Workshops on Inventories and Documentation Nov.-Dec & June 2015: Specialized courses on First Aid to Built Cultural Heritage (component on damage assessments) July 2016: Training on Emergency recording and archiving (with Cyark) Nov. 2014 & Dec. 2015: 2 workshops on illicit trafficking Jan. 2015: Workshop on movable heritage	Meeting on documentation (Damascus as a pilot case)		X	
B	6. Coordinate all on-going damage assessment and databases initiatives		X	Feb., July, Aug. 2015 & May, Sept. 2016: Workshops on Inventories and Documentation State of conservation reports for World Heritage sites in Syria ( <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/?action=list&amp;pattern=syria">http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/?action=list&amp;pattern=syria</a> ) Observatory of Syrian cultural heritage ( <a href="https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/">https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/</a> )	Regular update of the Observatory of Syrian cultural heritage ( <a href="https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/">https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/</a> ) Workshops planned for specific sites		X	
B	7. Ensure accurate and methodologically sound assessment of the damages and standardize it.		X	Nov-Dec 2015 & June 2015: Specialized courses on First Aid to Built Cultural Heritage (component on damage assessment) Ongoing development of an application for damage assessment (UNESCO Doha/ICCROM)	Other Trainings on First Aid to Built Cultural Heritage planned		X	
B	8. Gather satellite images of damaged sites		X	Partnership agreement with UNITAR-UNOSat and regular sharing of images	Partnership agreement with UNITAR-UNOSat continued (Update of the Syrian Report)		X	
M	9. Develop urgently a database of looted objects in close cooperation with INTERPOL, DGAM, other entities and neighboring countries		X	INTERPOL database is the international database of looted objects; DGAM is developing a national database which should be linked to INTERPOL.	Regular update		X	

All	10. Identify stakeholders involved in the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Syria and elsewhere (governmental, non-governmental entities, heritage specialists, police, customs, Syrian students, etc.)	X		Roster of expertise List established Network of professionals in place (lawyers, archaeologists, art historians, etc.) Nov. 2014 & Dec. 2015: 2 workshops on illicit trafficking Jan. 2015: Workshop on movable heritage	Update of the roster List updated if necessary		X		
M	10a. Identify experts who can work on authenticity issues, under the umbrella of UNESCO.								
M	11. Request ICOM to update the existing Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk		X	ICOM confirmed that the Red List is up-to-date				X	
ITH	12. Identify the intangible heritage in need of urgent safeguarding and establish appropriate safeguarding plans with the participation of communities and groups.	X		May 2016: Workshop on intangible heritage (traditional music identified as a priority) Pilot survey on Intangible heritage in displaced Syrians communities and its safeguarding	First Aid support meeting planned on intangible heritage Pilot project on traditional music in refugee camps Workshops on embroideries in refugee camps		X		
<b>III. ADVOCACY, COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING</b>									
All	1. Advocate at the international level for the inclusion of cultural heritage in recovery plans as a vital component of Syria's recovery		X	Meetings with humanitarian actors and major donors (EU, World bank, etc.) UNESCO Strategy 38C 49 UNSC Resolutions 2199 and 2253 UNGA Resolution 70/76 Regular advocacy	Regular advocacy continued		X		
All	2. Advocate for the importance of harnessing cultural heritage for reconciliation and dialogue across Syria.		X	UNESCO messages Campaign #Unite4Heritage	Continued		X		
All	3. UNESCO to continue playing a coordination role for the Emergency Safeguarding of Syria's Cultural Heritage and organizing regular meetings of the international expert community		X	International advocacy activities May 2014, June 2016: International expert meetings	Continued		X		

ITH	3a. Facilitate exchanges between displaced Syrians in neighboring countries implementing initiatives for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage			May 2016: Workshop on intangible heritage	Awareness raising International Conference (2017)			
M	4. Coordinate amongst cultural heritage networks in order to: - Inform Syria on cultural objects seized in other countries - Share information with experts to identify authenticity and origin of the cultural objects seized, as quickly as possible, - Facilitate sharing of information with the police and customs through UNESCO and Interpol, - Share information to map smuggling roads, share the archaeological mission's material to facilitate the identification of cultural objects.	X		Letter to State Parties every three month requesting the exchange of information on seized objects + responses by State Parties Creation of a Syrian Police Database Exchanges on daily basis with partners, including archaeologists Tracking on the web of suspicious artefacts appearing on the online market. Nov. 2014 & Dec. 2015: 2 workshops on illicit trafficking	Continued		X	
All	4. UNESCO to continue sharing information through appropriate communication tools (observatory, website) and centralizing all existing initiatives and resources		X	Observatory of Syrian cultural heritage and its information sharing platform ( <a href="https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/">https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/</a> )	Regular update of the Observatory of Syrian cultural heritage)	X		
All	4. Pursue the UNESCO #Unite4Heritage Campaign			Posters for #Unite4Heritage campaign Video clips UNITWIN network created with a focus on the MENA region (including Syria) (Dec. 2016) Statutory meetings decisions disseminated Dedicated webpage for Movable Heritage ( <a href="http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/">http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/</a> )	Campaign continued Awareness raising International Conference (2017) Exhibitions on Syrian cultural heritage Implementation by an NGO of activities in refugee camps targeting women and children Other videos			X
All	4a. Develop awareness-raising initiatives for various target groups at national and international level							
ITH	4b. Develop awareness-raising initiatives in consultation with the communities concerned that include safeguarding actions in Syria as well as in the displaced and refugee communities, with a focus on the youth.	X						
ITH	4c. Promote the values of Syria's intangible heritage in hosting countries, notably among youth.							
<b>V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CAPACITY BUILDING AND FUTURE NEEDS</b>								
All	2. Syrian stakeholders to set a comprehensive needs-assessment in terms of training and capacity building in and outside Syria	X	X	May 2014 & June 2016 : Road map of activities developed	Continued		X	

ITH	2a. Assess the most urgent needs in terms of training in the field of safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.			Institutions, NGOs, and heritage professionals consulted on possible proposals May 2016: Workshop on intangible heritage (traditional music identified as a priority)				
All	3. Scale-up capacity building activities (training for specific situations, locations, involvement of multiple beneficiaries)		X	Participation of multiple beneficiaries representing various stakeholders in meetings and trainings	Disaster risk management training 2017, 2018, 2019: Several national and international initiatives planned			X
All	4. Involve the network of Syrian scholars and university students in training activities		X	Youth Forum University participating in meetings and trainings	Continued			X
All	5. Provide training in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International and national legal issues for the recovery phase, including restitution of looted objects, emergency laws to handle post-conflict challenges and revision of the legislative framework to deal with the new context</li> <li>Community involvement in the field of safeguarding cultural heritage.</li> <li>Ground interventions by local stakeholders during and after the conflict (Damage assessment, Fragment documentation, Conservation and consolidation techniques, etc)</li> </ul>		X	Cooperation with UNHCR, Red Cross (ICRH) Nov. 2016: First aid support meeting for the Ancient City of Damascus Dec. 2016: First Aid technical workshop for the Crac des Chevaliers, Palmyra and the Ancient City of Damascus	Disaster risk management training Meeting on legal issues for the protection of built heritage (with the support of the German Government)			X
All	6. Provide training documents and courses in Arabic to large dissemination (training trainers)		X	Training courses get interpretation in Arabic Meeting documents provided in Arabic	Continued			X
All	7. Develop online training modules		X	Development of the Platform AMAL for managing conflict and disaster risks with include e-learning (joint initiative by ICOMOS /ICCROM /ARC-WH /GHP /Prince Claus Fund)	Continued			X
All	8. Develop vocational training on short and long term and prevent the loss of skills		X	University and NGO's involved in training workshops	Pilot project on traditional music in refugee camps Workshops on embroideries in refugee camps			X

All	9. Ensure security at sites with adequate human resources/ national and civil society-levels (including in cultural institutions and places of worship)	X	Exploring the administrative mechanisms to allow funding security at sites			X	
M	1. Keep cultural heritage objects in safe havens outside Syria during the crisis and immediate post crisis period.	X	Safe haven: Proposals by State parties but issues for the implementation related to Syria's legislation. Safe havens explored and not agreed upon by Syrian Authorities.			X	
B	1. Provide training for assessing damages and consolidating damaged structures, as a matter of priority.	X	Nov-Dec 2015 & June 2015: Specialized courses on First Aid to Built Cultural Heritage		X		
B	2. Prepare teams to take action on the ground as soon as the situation allows.	X	Specialized courses on First Aid to Built Cultural Heritage Roster of experts operational Creation of tasks forces according to needs Training in Disaster Risk Management	Continued		X	
B	4. Provide technical assistance in relation with illegal constructions during the conflict and beyond	X	First aid support meeting for the Ancient City of Damascus	Joint UNESCO/ICOM/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission Meeting on legal issues for the protection of built heritage (with the support of the German Government)		X	
M	2. Improve capacities and training of the police, customs, heritage professionals and religious institutions	X	Nov 2014 & Dec 2015: 2 workshops on illicit trafficking Jan 2015 Workshops on movable heritage Dec. 2016: meeting to assess the implementation of UN Resolution 2199		X		
	<b>Legal and Institutional framework</b>						
M	3. Request the UN Security Council to adopt a decision on Syrian cultural heritage based on Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and similarly to the Resolution 1483 (2003) on Iraqi heritage to:	X	Resolution 2199 adopted in February 2015 - Ban of illicit object from Syria and Iraq - UNESCO to contribute to its implementation	Continued		X	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate the restitution of stolen or illegally exported cultural objects,</li> <li>- Forbid sale and transfer of cultural heritage which have left Syria after a certain date to be determined,</li> <li>- Shift the burden of proof on the possessor,</li> <li>- Call upon UNESCO to contribute to the implementation of this decision.</li> </ul>		<p>Letters sent to Member States of UNESCO informing them about the adoption of Resolution 2199 as well as 2253 and their obligation to report on the illicit trafficking of cultural objects.</p> <p>A Set of guidelines sent to Member States to improve the implementation of Resolution 2199 at the national level.</p> <p>Calls to Members States to become a party to and implement the UNESCO 1970 Convention as well as to ratify the UNIDROIT Convention on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects (Rome, 1995)</p>			
M	<p>4. Call for the UNESCO Member States to ratify the international instruments for the protection of cultural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 1970),</li> <li>- The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention 1954 (The Hague, 1954) and its First and Second protocols (1954, 1999),</li> <li>- UNIDROIT Convention on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects (Rome, 1995)</li> </ul>	X	<p>Letters regularly sent to State Parties</p> <p>Regular advocacy during the UNESCO statutory meetings, and at conferences, etc.</p>		X	
M	<p>5. Call for the UNESCO States Parties to the 1970 Convention to apply Article 9 on patrimony in jeopardy from pillage and request international assistance of the other parties to the 1970 Convention.</p>	X	<p>Letters sent every three months to Member States. In consequence some actions taken at the national level (e.g.: the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as amended on 15.08.2016; The Cultural Property Protection Law, adopted in Germany on 8 July 2016, France and Switzerland sent via UNESCO Beirut Office materials for the evacuation and safekeeping of collections)</p>		X	

M	6. Establish an administrative assistance mechanism that facilitates coordination between States and institutions for fighting illicit traffic and enabling restitutions.	X		UNESCO's regular coordination with Interpol, WCO, UNDCO, UNIDROIT, and other stakeholders				X
<b>V. PREPARING FUTURE SAFEGUARDING PLANS</b>								
All	1. Establish strategies for the protection of cultural heritage during the conflict and the recovery phase.		X	ICOMOS reflection seminars on reconstruction UNESCO Strategy 38 C/49 /Action Plan /Road map for post conflict reconstruction / World Heritage Committee Decisions	Continued			X
All	2. Engage in community-based and participatory processes (communities as drivers vs. "beneficiaries"), including refugees and displaced populations as major component, (address demographic gaps), youth as actors and major work force: Consult/involve the local communities to place them at the heart of recovery plans and provide assistance.		X	Nov. 2016: First aid support meeting for the Ancient City of Damascus (NGOs attending) May 2016 : population placed at the centre Frist aid music (displaced)	Continued			X
All	3. Detail the planning of the recovery phase and develop methodologies and multi-level coordination mechanisms, with flexible alternatives and revise strategies and approaches according to the needs.		X	Dec. 2016: First Aid technical workshop for the Crac des Chevaliers, Palmyra and the Ancient City of Damascus	March 2015: Meeting for the Ancient City of Aleppo			X
All	4. Set a framework that maps all initiatives and plans under an agreed coordination.		X	Observatory of Syrian cultural heritage ( <a href="https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/">https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/</a> ) Roster of experts	Roster of experts to further develop to map initiatives and plans			X
All	5. Form multidisciplinary thematic working groups to prepare methodically and scientifically well-planned recovery including toolboxes for interventions, considering: - priorities (cities versus archaeological sites, humanitarian, social and economic needs, beneficiaries, etc.) - timelines (place short term priorities within a flexible long term strategy/action plan)		X	June 2015: Meeting on post-conflict reconstruction Nov. 2016: First aid support meeting for the Ancient City of Damascus Dec. 2016: First Aid technical workshop for the Crac des Chevaliers, Palmyra and the Ancient City of Damascus	2016, 2017: Several meetings for sites planned			X

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Place sustainable development at the centre of recovery plans</li> <li>- Anticipate future scenarios and upcoming challenges to be able to develop positive strategic responses on the ground and mitigate risks during the recovery phase.</li> </ul>							
All	6. Plan and implement with humanitarian actors and NGOs activities related to cultural heritage for youth and women as priority beneficiaries.		X	Meetings with humanitarian actors	Pilot project on traditional music in refugee camps Workshops on embroideries in refugee camps		X	
All	7. Gather and learn from good and bad practices in post-conflict countries and in Syria.		X	Initiated with the June 2016 meeting on post-conflict reconstruction	Development of case studies planned	X		
All	8. Identify resource needs (human and financial) and explores means to up-scale overall response to cultural heritage under conflict in Syria		X	Advocacy at UN level/ peace making plans Funding schemes and prospects Fundraising	Continued		X	
All	9. Start implementing concrete recovery activities in the field in locations that are already accessible, building on and supporting Syria's institutions (structure and operational response) and professionals, as the major stakeholders and actors of the recovery process.		X	Technical support to emergency consolation. Evacuation of Museum objects from Palmyra	On site emergency interventions planned where possible			X