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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of World Heritage properties

SUMMARY

This document presents a global and analytical overview of Item 7 on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties.

The document is composed of four parts: a statistical summary (Introduction), a section on statutory matters related to Reactive Monitoring (Part I), a focus on emergency situations resulting from conflicts (Part II) and a synthesis of other conservation issues which might have strategic or policy implications (Part III).

The Committee may wish to discuss and take a decision on Item 7 as a whole, as required.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7, see Part IV.

Table of Contents

- INTRODUCTION..... 2**
- I. STATUTORY MATTERS RELATED TO REACTIVE MONITORING 6**
- II. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS RESULTING FROM CONFLICTS 7**
- III. OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES.....12**
 - A. RECONSTRUCTION12
 - B. CLIMATE CHANGE.....14
 - C. URBAN PRESSURE17
 - D. VANDALISM.....19
 - E. DISASTERS RISK REDUCTION.....20
 - F. INVASIVE SPECIES21
 - G. ILLEGAL TRADE OF WILDLIFE SPECIES22
 - H. INTEGRATED APPROACHES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.....22
- IV. DRAFT DECISION.....25**

INTRODUCTION

1. As part of the Reactive Monitoring process¹, the World Heritage Committee will examine at its 41st session the reports on the state of conservation of 154 World Heritage properties (Agenda items 7A and 7B), including the 55 properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Agenda item 7A). In addition, due to specific situations, two decisions, one on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and one on those of the Syrian Arab Republic, will also be examined under Agenda item 7A.
2. The properties reported upon are selected, among all those inscribed on the World Heritage List, according to the following considerations:
 - 55 properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Agenda item 7A);
 - 90 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for which state of conservation reports were requested by the World Heritage Committee at its previous sessions (Agenda item 7B);
 - 9 additional properties that have also come under threat since the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Agenda item 7B);
 - Out of these 154 properties, for 11 a follow-up was requested by the World Heritage Committee upon their inscription on the World Heritage List.
3. The 154 properties for examination are distributed as follows:

Agenda item 7A Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2	NAT	CLT	total
AFR	13	4	17
ARB	0	21	21
APA	2	4	6
EUR/NA	1	3	4
LAC	2	5	7
Total	18	37	55

Agenda item 7B Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2	NAT	MIX	CLT	total
AFR	5	3	7	15
ARB	1	0	13	14
APA	10	0	14	24
EUR/NA	9	1	18	28
LAC	8	2	8	18
Total	33	6	60	99

¹For further details on this process, please visit the dedicated page on the World Heritage Centre's online State of conservation Information System at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/reactive-monitoring>.

4. These 154 properties represent 14.6% of all the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Significant variations among the regions are noticeable (see below Chart 1). For example, the Africa and the Arab States regions represent respectively 31% and 38% of all properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (item 7A), although they represent today only 9% and 8% of the World Heritage List respectively.

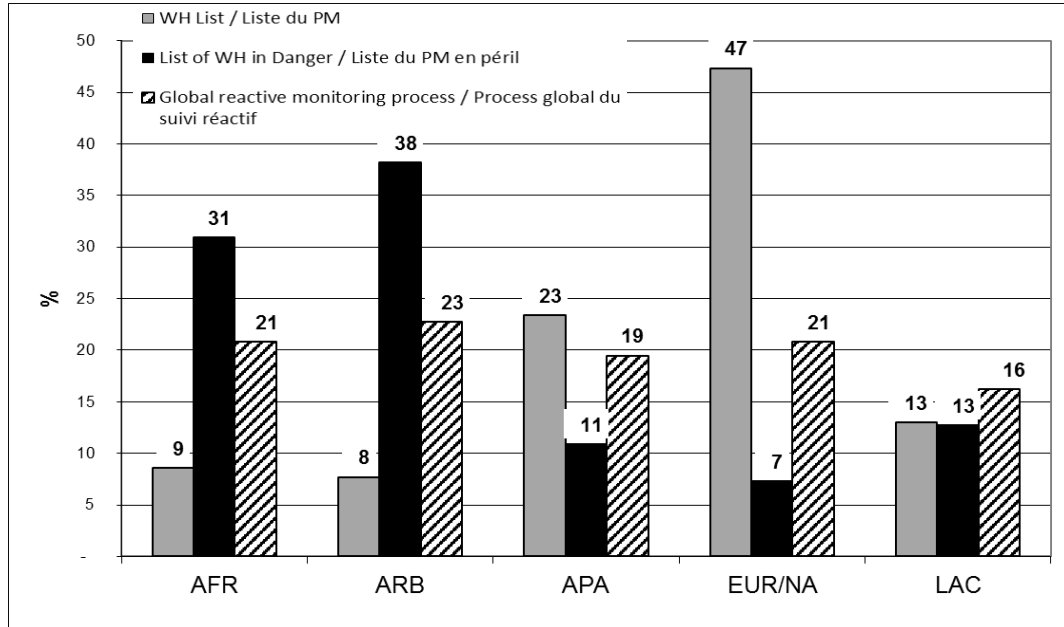


Chart 1: Percentage of properties located in each region

5. There are also significant variations when considering the categories of heritage (natural, mixed and cultural properties). Indeed, while natural properties represent 19% of the World Heritage List, they account for nearly one third of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and one third of all properties subject to the Reactive Monitoring process (see Chart 2 below).

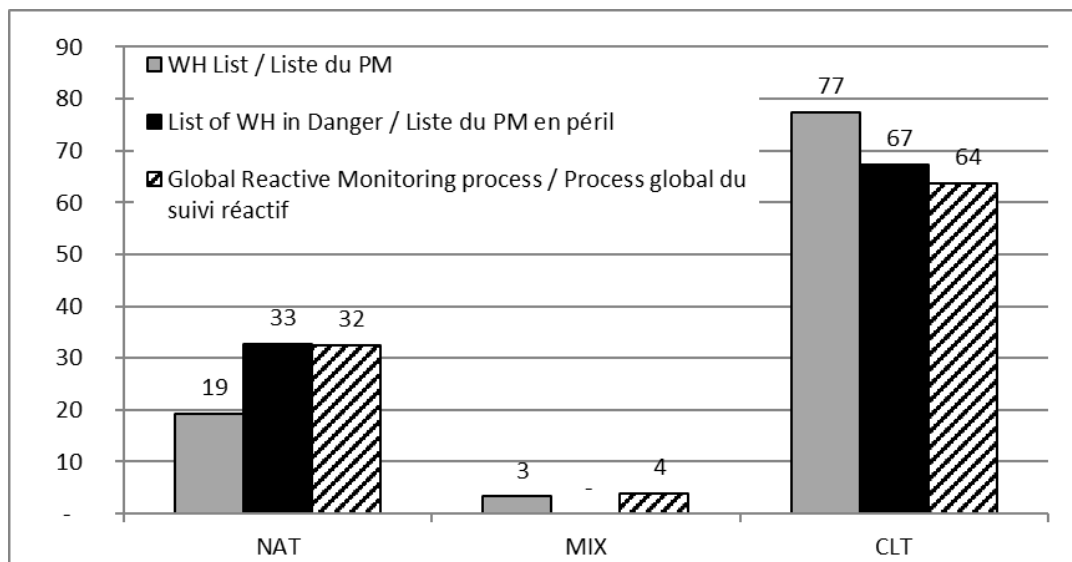


Chart 2: Percentage of properties of each category (natural, mixed, cultural)

6. The 154 properties for which a state of conservation report is presented are facing a number of factors, which negatively impact, or may impact, their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). A total of 68 different factors affecting these properties have been identified, with an average of 5 factors affecting each property, which emphasizes once more the cumulative impact of threats on the OUV.

7. Globally, the most reported factors affecting the properties in 2017 are the following:

Factors	Percentage of the reported properties affected
Management systems/ management plan	70,1%
Housing	37,7%
Illegal activities	27,9%
Ground transport infrastructure	24,7%
Land conversion	22,1%
Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	21,4%
Legal framework	20,1%
Management activities	19,5%
War	14,3%
Mining	13,0%
Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	13,0%
Human resources	13,0%
Water infrastructure	12,3%
Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	11,0%
Civil unrest	11,0%

8. Factors affecting the World Heritage properties vary according to the category of heritage considered. The table below presents the most reported factors affecting respectively natural and cultural properties, as identified in the state of conservation reports presented in 2017:

Natural properties		Cultural properties	
Factors	Percentage of the reported properties affected	Factors	Percentage of the reported properties affected
Illegal activities	60,8%	Management systems/ management plan	76,3%
Management systems/ management plan	56,9%	Housing	54,6%
Mining	31,4%	Management activities	27,8%
Land conversion	31,4%	Ground transport infrastructure	22,7%
Water infrastructure	27,5%	Legal framework	21,6%
Ground transport infrastructure	25,5%	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	19,6%
Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals	23,5%	War	18,6%
Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	21,6%	Land conversion	16,5%
Civil unrest	19,6%	Deliberate destruction of heritage	12,4%
Invasive/alien terrestrial species	17,6%	Human resources	11,3%
Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	15,7%	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	11,3%
Legal framework	13,7%	Water (rain/water table)	11,3%
Forestry /wood production	13,7%	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	10,3%
Human resources	13,7%	Interpretative and visitation facilities	10,3%
Oil and gas	13,7%	Illegal activities	10,3%

9. More detailed statistics can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc> (click “Advanced search”; enter “from 2017”; click “Search”; then on the “Views” tab, and “Statistics”).
10. The following parts of the document present insights on specific factors, such as conflict situations, reconstruction, climate change, etc.
11. The World Heritage Centre wishes to underline that a substantial number of reports were not received within the statutory deadlines of 1 December 2016 and 1 February

2017, as requested by the World Heritage Committee to States Parties. By 15 December 2016, only 71% of the reports requested by 1 December had been received by the World Heritage Centre; and by 15 February 2017, only 78% of the reports requested by 1 February had been received.

12. 84% of all the requested reports were received by the end of February 2017 and 93% by the end of March 2017. At the time of drafting this document, 4 reports had not yet been submitted. It should however be noted with appreciation that this year, most of the States Parties reports were following the statutory format included as Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The respect of the format greatly improves the treatment of the information and facilitates the monitoring of the implementation of previous Committee decisions.
13. The World Heritage Centre would like to recall that delayed submission of these reports and/or late submission of additional information by the States Parties inevitably leads to less time available for dialogue between the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on the issues at stake. It should be noted that this year, States Parties have submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies an increasing amount of such additional documentation and information, sometimes at a very late point in the drafting process in late April and May, hampering the production of the relevant working documents. Furthermore, late submissions lead to an increasing number of SOC reports being included in the Addenda documents, thus reducing the time available for Committee members to review these reports before the Committee session. 89 reports were made available on 19 May 2017 (statutory deadline for dispatch of Documents WHC/17/41.COM/7A and 7B) and 67 remaining reports were made available on the second and third dispatches (Documents WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add, WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2).
14. In some cases when the State Party has submitted its report by the requested statutory deadline of 1 December (in conformity with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*), developments may take place in the extended period until the dispatch of the working documents, which may encourage the State Party to provide such additional information to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Although the sharing of information on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is crucial, States Parties should be reminded about Decision **35 COM 12B**, paragraph 16, by which they were requested by the Committee to consider refraining from providing additional information regarding SOC issues after the deadlines indicated in the *Operational Guidelines*, as this information cannot be reviewed in due course.
15. The World Heritage Centre would also like to acknowledge that out of all reports received, 81% have been made fully accessible to the public at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc> with the agreement of the States Parties concerned. The online availability of such an important number of complete state of conservation reports greatly contributes to the transparency of the Reactive Monitoring processes and States Parties should be commended for allowing such online publication.
16. Lastly, as key actors of the World Heritage Reactive Monitoring process, site managers often emerge as the responsibility holders who oversee and lead site-specific managerial decision-making. The responsibility of implementing the decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee and preparing the state of conservation reports also often rely on them. However, too often, site managers are not directly involved in the decision-making processes and therefore might not be fully empowered to act upon the effective implementation of the decisions adopted nor assist other stakeholders to engage in the World Heritage processes. To address this issue, Poland, the host country of the 41st session of the Committee, has decided to organize, from 30 June to 6 July 2017, the first World Heritage Site Managers Forum (SMF), opened to all site

managers of properties examined by the Committee at its 41st session (under Items 7A and 7B). As a capacity-building exercise, the SMF aims at increasing the understanding of the World Heritage decision-making processes among site managers in order to achieve a more effective protection of the OUV as well as promote a greater engagement of all those dealing with World Heritage properties on a day-to-day basis. It is co-organized by ICCROM, with the involvement of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS. In addition, to enable representatives from least developed countries (as defined in Paragraph 239 of the *Operational Guidelines*) to participate in the Forum, the Host Country has secured some funds. For more information, see <https://www.41whckrakow2017.pl/site-managers-en>.

I. STATUTORY MATTERS RELATED TO REACTIVE MONITORING

17. Information regarding supposed or possible threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties is constantly provided to the World Heritage Centre by diverse sources other than the State Party. All such information received is treated in the framework of the relevant provisions of the *Operational Guidelines* (Paragraph 174).
18. On a number of occasions however, specific campaigns are carried out through social media, mass petitions or public appeals, often by groups of citizens and NGOs moved by environmental goals. They tend to mainly concern natural properties, as in the cases of the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico) (30,000 letters received), the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico), Yellowstone National Park (United States of America) (over 1,500 letters received), the Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia) (hundreds of emails directly addressed to the UNESCO Director General), Doñana National Park (Spain), among others.
19. However, it also so happens that such mass campaigns concern cultural properties, such as Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Alto Douro Wine Region (Portugal), and more recently the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria).
20. The petitions received by the World Heritage Centre can also concern issues that are more global. In 2009, there were two campaigns concerning climate change: one campaign by the Australian Climate Justice Program, Climate Action Network Australia and Friends of the Earth Australia, and another by Earth Justice (United States of America) and the Australian Climate Justice Program. In 2011 and 2012, there were campaigns against dams construction (over 200 emails from members of the NGO International Rivers).
21. The World Heritage Centre treats the information received in the framework of those campaigns in compliance with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It verifies the source and the contents of the information in consultation with the State Party concerned.
22. As it is practically impossible to respond individually to all letters or emails received in this context, the World Heritage Centre has developed the practice to post on its webpage a global response to the issue. For example, in a number of cases, the World Heritage Centre posted its response in the form of a news item on its webpage:
 - Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/148> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/149>)
 - Yellowstone National Park (United States of America) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/155>)
 - Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1512>)

- Greater Blue Mountains (Australia) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1670>)
 - Alto Douro Wine Region (Portugal) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1498>)
23. The two petitions on climate change received in 2009 were acknowledged and addressed within Document [WHC-09/33.COM/7B](#), under the section on “Climate Change and World Heritage properties”.
 24. In case of numerous letters received in 2012 from International Rivers concerning dams, the Director of the World Heritage Centre sent a response to the NGO Headquarters, which was uploaded on the NGO’s website to reach all its members (see <https://www.internationalrivers.org/resources/response-from-the-world-heritage-centre-7505>).

II. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS RESULTING FROM CONFLICTS

25. Conflicts continue to represent a major threat to World Heritage properties. In 2017, 21% of the properties reported at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee are located in conflict areas (either wars or civil unrest) and are at risk. Actions are being pursued to monitor and/or safeguard this heritage and advocate for its protection at international and national level; other actions have been developed to mitigate and prevent risks, and to address the challenges of recovery processes.
26. In Timbuktu (Mali), the reconstruction of 14 of the 16 mausoleums of Timbuktu destroyed since May 2012, was completed in July 2015 thanks to reconstruction works undertaken with the full involvement of the local communities. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2100 (adopted the 25 April 2013) requested the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to ensure the safeguarding of cultural heritage sites in Mali in collaboration with UNESCO, which marked the very first time that the official mandate of a UN Peace keeping mission referred to the protection of cultural heritage. In that context, UNESCO organized training in cultural heritage protection for approximately 2,000 MINUSMA staff, focusing not only on heritage sites and monuments, but also on the protection of cultural objects and the fight against illicit trafficking. The international attention focused on Mali’s heritage has also contributed to the successful outcome of the International Criminal Court’s first trial on the wilful destruction of cultural heritage in 2016. Furthermore, the *Protection of cultural property Military Manual* was published in 2016 and is available in English (currently being translated in other languages) at the following web address: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/dynamic-content-single-view/news/unesco-emphasizes-dialogue-and-launches-military-manual-for/>.
27. In Nigeria, conflicts have inflicted damages to palace buildings and houses in the Sukur Cultural Landscapes. Rehabilitation and reconstruction works have been undertaken at some of the traditional buildings with the contribution of the local communities funded by the World Heritage Fund (through an International Assistance) and the Government of Hungary.
28. Conservation works continue at the two Buddha niches in the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley, Afghanistan, as the rears of the Buddha niches became considerably fragile and unstable following the 2001 blast. An International Symposium on the Future of the Buddha Statues is planned in Tokyo on 27–30 September 2017 within the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-In-Trust project, in which experts will present proposals for physical and non-physical reconstruction and for the revitalisation of the eastern Buddha statues. The selected proposals will be sent to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review and also for the examination of the 42nd session of the Committee in 2018.

29. The Arab Region continues to be affected by distressing conflicts. In Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, due to armed conflicts and political instability, the humanitarian conditions are increasingly and overwhelmingly degraded and the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties, the sites inscribed on the Tentative Lists, and cultural heritage as a whole, is highly preoccupying.
30. The armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011 and has constantly escalated, leading to the destruction of major testimonies of Syria's exceptional archaeological, urban and architectural heritage. The conflict has seriously affected all six World Heritage properties, the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative List, and a wide number of highly significant cultural heritage sites all over Syria. Since the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, new intentional destructions inflicted by armed groups have irreversibly destroyed major attributes of Palmyra, including parts of the theatre's proscenium and proscenium wall. The Ancient City of Aleppo has suffered additional extensive damages, which have been assessed during a UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission in January 2017. First Aid measures at Aleppo, Palmyra, and other World Heritage properties in Syria will require important support in terms of sound planning, technical assistance, coordination and funding. The UNESCO Beirut Office continues to implement the project funded by the European Union, and co-financed by the Government of Flanders and Austria to support the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage. The World Heritage Centre is implementing the Flemish Funds-in-Trust (FIT) funded project 'Implementation of the Committee Decisions for the Site of Palmyra' (USD 100 000)", approved in December 2016;
31. Since the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in Beirut organized several technical assistance workshops and coordination meetings for the safeguarding of Syria's World Heritage properties, including a coordination meeting for the Ancient City of Aleppo in March 2017. Restoring and reconstructing Aleppo is an extremely complex and lengthy endeavour, which raises numerous and diverse challenges. Efforts and resources need to be mobilized to avoid further loss to cultural heritage in the property.
32. In Iraq, the damages incurred since 2014, with the rise of armed extremist groups have caused the tragic loss of human lives and a great humanitarian crisis associated with the persecution of cultural and religious minorities, where cultural heritage has been the target of intentional destruction at a staggering scale. However, since the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the World Heritage properties of Ashur and Hatra, and the site of Nimrud inscribed on Iraq's Tentative List, are back to safe conditions although they continue to be exposed to risks of damage. UNESCO undertook two Rapid Assessment missions to Ashur and Nimrud, respectively in February 2017 and December 2016 - see webpages: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/1130> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1611/>).
33. On 23 and 24 February 2017, UNESCO and the Iraqi Government organized an International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The Conference gathered the international scientific community to assess the situation in these areas and outline priorities in terms of needed actions and resources; it laid the ground for an emergency, medium and long term action plan; one of its outcomes was also to establish a joint UNESCO-Iraq Steering Committee to coordinate national and international initiatives for the safeguarding and restoration of cultural heritage in the liberated areas of Iraq.
34. Looting and illicit trafficking have become a growing concern in Iraq. Several of the 11 Iraqi sites inscribed on the Tentative List continue to be threatened by the current conflict including Mosul which is within a combat zone.

35. In Libya, the prevailing unstable situation and the rising insecurity place the five World Heritage properties of Libya at a high level of risk. Due to the lack of proper governance and the difficult political situation in Libya, illegal constructions within and around the World Heritage properties of the Archaeological Sites of Sabratha, Cyrene and Leptis Magna make the increasing phenomenon of urban encroachment being the major threat to these sites. This was confirmed by the analysis of satellite images, carried out by UNOSAT/UNITAR, which provides support to UNESCO in its efforts to safeguard cultural heritage in the various conflict situations of the Arab region. The World Heritage Site of Tadrart Acacus is exposed to unprecedented rates of human presence due to migratory movements and is increasingly exposed to vandalism. Fortunately, no major intentional destructions have been reported since the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) but Libya's cultural heritage sites are at threat and require urgent risk prevention measures (security and equipment, fencing of the sites, monitoring tools and trained staff), important funding and increased support from the World Heritage Centre.
36. The armed conflict in Yemen continues to cause a tragic loss of human lives and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, and to affect severely World Heritage properties, sites inscribed on the Tentative List and a wide number of highly significant cultural heritage sites. In the Old City of Sana'a, 217 structures have been damaged as confirmed by UNITAR/UNOSAT Satellite image monitoring. In addition, at the Historic City of Saada, and the Archaeological Site of Marib, both on the Tentative list, the analysis of satellite images indicates serious damage to the Old Bridge and Old Town of Marib, no visible damage to the Barran and Awan temples in Marib, and more than 273 structures destroyed and 271 severely damaged in Saada. It further indicates 110 damaged structures in Taiz, substantial damage to the temple of Nakrah in Baraqish and severe damage to the Historic City of Kawkaban.
37. The security situation in Yemen, in combination with a lack of organisational support and resources, continues to prevent both effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. However, the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) with the support of local communities have implemented emergency measures such as damage assessment, documentation, first-aid interventions and preparatory training, and maintains communication with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Doha and the Advisory Bodies. Support from the international community remains essential for capacity building and the conduct of adequate preventive and restoration measures. Although future donor support is necessarily constrained unless and until the security situation improves, emergency interventions for the reconstruction of destroyed houses still require immediate financial and technical support, to sustain people's livelihoods and ensure that these interventions include due consideration of the property's World Heritage status and OUV. In the face of the growing needs, the World Heritage Centre needs to step-up its operational response and reactivity, and ensure proper implementation and follow-up of all emergency measures identified for Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. However, this is currently achieved only partially due to lack of adequate resources. Similarly, the calls on the resources of the Advisory Bodies in connection with the on-going conflicts have increased to a significant degree and beyond what can be handled reasonably within the limits of current resources.
38. Nevertheless, ICCROM has been able to carry out a number of capacity building activities over the past several years to assist States Parties through its ICCROM-ATHAR Centre in Sharjah, in partnership with UNESCO and other organizations. These include courses for Libyan, Yemeni, and Syrian professionals as well as a regional leadership course on "First Aid and Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis", held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from 4 – 31 October 2016.

Additional resources will be needed, however, to continue with these necessary capacity-building activities.

39. Over the past two years, the protection of cultural heritage in conflict situations has, become a subject of concern and attracted interest well beyond the cultural domain, and notably within the UN Security Council, in recognition of its close connection with humanitarian and security considerations. This major development has significantly changed the environment in which UNESCO operates and has led to new opportunities and challenges for the Organization.
40. The UNESCO General Conference responded in 2015 by adopting a Strategy for reinforcing UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict (hereinafter the Strategy). The UNESCO Member States also adopted an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, which is accessible from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002477/247706e.pdf> (part I E); it includes around 30 activities, presented according to their level of priority and addressing the two main objectives of the Strategy, which are: 1) to strengthen the ability of Member States to prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity as a result of conflict; and 2) to incorporate the protection of culture into humanitarian action, security strategies and peacebuilding processes by engaging with the relevant stakeholder outside the culture domain.
41. Most of the activities under objective 1 of the Strategy are relevant to World Heritage, such as monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and their rapid assessment, coordination meetings and the elaboration of emergency action plans, training for first aid, etc. Indeed, many of these activities are being implemented in the context of ongoing programs in the field, described in the relevant State of conservation reports. These efforts are being complemented by a major awareness raising campaign called "Unite4Heritage", inviting the active participation of youth and powered by UNESCO (www.unite4heritage.org). At the time of this document preparation, this has resulted in 1,000 UNESCO-created campaign posts viewed more than 18 million times in 6 languages. A video called "The Value of heritage" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1_f-GqaHHo) has been seen more than 150,000 times so far.
42. Other activities, especially those which contribute to the second objective of the Strategy, are still being developed and will be implemented in the future. These involve the mainstreaming of a concern for World Heritage protection in, for example, UN peace keeping operations and political missions, building on the experience of the cooperation with MINUSMA in Mali, but also partnerships with humanitarian actors to support the cultural rights of displaced and refugees and the inclusion of heritage in educational programmes. Another major initiative within the Action Plan, currently being developed, is the establishment of a Rapid Response Mechanism, based on a roster of experts that would be deployed to provide assistance to Member States, at their request, in emergency situations, building on the agreement signed between UNESCO and Italy in 2016.
43. To support the implementation of the Action Plan, UNESCO established in 2015 the *Heritage Emergency Fund* (HEF). The Fund is a pooled, non-earmarked funding mechanism that is primarily aimed at providing a flexible means of enabling the Organization to respond more quickly, efficiently and effectively to crises. The Fund is managed in the framework of a programme for Emergency Preparedness and Response, whose objective is to assist Member States in protecting culture and natural and cultural heritage from disasters and conflicts by more effectively preparing and responding to emergency situations. Operations under the HEF have started during 2016, following initial contributions from Qatar, Norway, the Netherlands, Slovakia,

Luxembourg, Estonia, Monaco and Andorra, as well as a number of private individuals. Initial activities have targeted Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Ecuador, Haiti and Peru.

44. To coordinate the implementation of such programme, which cuts across all UNESCO cultural Conventions, a new related “expected result” was included in the proposed UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2018-2022 (39 C/5).
45. UNESCO has pursued follow-up to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 2199 (February 2015) that included legally binding measures to counter illicit trafficking of antiquities and cultural objects from Iraq and Syria, in close cooperation with INTERPOL and other institutional partners. UNESCO submitted a report to the United Nations Sanctions Monitoring Team based on information received from Member States on counter measures taken at the national level. This report served as a basis for the recommendations of the Chair of the Security Council Committee to the Security Council. One of the main outcomes of UNESCO’s follow-up is the adoption of Resolution 2253 (December 2015) which widens the obligation to report on oil-related crimes stipulated in Resolution 2199, to cultural objects. This new Resolution builds on Resolution 2253 as it is not limited to a specific country, but aims to suppress the financing of terrorism more broadly; it also enables Member States to replicate the same counter measures for other countries in conflict, such as in Mali, Yemen and Libya.
46. On 24 March 2017, the United Nations Security Council took note of the UNESCO General Conference’s Resolution 38 C/48, by which Member States have adopted the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO’s Actions for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict, and adopted Resolution 2347, which is the first ever resolution to focus on cultural heritage. It underlines that destruction of cultural heritage, and the looting and smuggling of cultural property in the event of armed conflicts undermines the security, stability, governance, social, economic and cultural development of affected States, and reflects a new recognition of the importance of heritage protection for peace and security, and of the central role played by UNESCO in protecting cultural heritage and promoting culture as an instrument to bring people closer together and foster dialogue.
47. Natural sites continue to suffer from the consequences of conflicts where insecurity continues to complicate the implementation of corrective measures.
48. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on all the four sites located in the eastern region (see Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add). In 2016, the staff from the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN - Institut congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) suffered heavy casualties with 10 guards killed in Garamba, Virunga and Kahuzi Biega National Parks and Okapis Wildlife Reserve, and several guards wounded. The Corps to strengthen security in the national parks decided-upon in April 2015, is not yet established. However, military contingents from the Armed Forces (FARDC) are now deployed in all the sites to undertake joint patrols with ICCN to strengthen security.
49. Poaching remains the greatest threat to the integrity of the natural sites in the Africa Region. World Heritage properties are being targeted by armed groups and poachers causing many victims among the guards and conservation staff. One ranger and an army soldier were killed in December 2016 during an attack by heavily armed poachers in Lobéké National Park (Cameroon). In May 2017, the Dja Fauna Reserve’s research Centre (Cameroon) was burned by a group of individuals in retaliation against the killing of a presumed poacher during an anti-poaching patrol. According to the International Rangers Federation, over 1,000 park wardens have been killed over the past decade, 80% of them by poachers and armed militias. This insecurity affects all sites from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Thailand.

50. In the Socotra Archipelago in Yemen, several media articles and NGOs alerted the World Heritage Centre on extensive development projects on the island of Socotra, which are reported to include residential cities, ports, hotels, and roads, without prior assessment of impacts on the unique environment of Socotra and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

III. OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES

A. Reconstruction

51. Damage to cultural heritage induced by conflicts continues in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, with new events of deliberate destruction that have occurred for example in Palmyra (Syria), destroying additional important attributes within the property.
52. While the reconstruction of the Timbuktu mausoleums (Mali) has been completed, the reconstruction of the Kasubi Tombs (Uganda), and the reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration of Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) following the devastating earthquakes continue, the plans for the recovery of the Old City of Aleppo (Syria) and the city of Mosul (Iraq) have started. First-aid measures at Hatra and Ashur World Heritage properties (Iraq) are being considered. It has become all the more urgent to formulate guidance on issues pertaining to recovery at large, including reconstruction in World Heritage properties and in sites inscribed on the Tentative Lists, with particular attention to support thriving communities.
53. In addition to a number of expert meetings that were organized by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM and which were reported to the World Heritage Committee in 2015 and in 2016, several universities organized seminars on the issue of post-conflict reconstruction since the 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM undertook the initiatives highlighted hereafter, responding to the request of the Decision **40 COM 7** (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016). These initiatives continue to address reconstruction not as a single concept but as a multi-faceted process within larger recovery plans, one that encompasses socio-economic questions inscribed within an integrated approach that prioritizes the needs of local communities, reconciliation and participation, as well as mitigates the risks of reinventing heritage and re-writing history.
54. While at World Heritage properties, reconstruction must relate to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), current approaches aim at going beyond reconstructing the fabric of buildings, monuments, cities, etc., to encompass processes linking people to places or to historical, social or spiritual associations, depending on the nature of the attributes and their role in conveying OUV.
55. ICOMOS organized in September 2016 an international workshop on reconstruction of World Heritage properties. The outcomes of the conference allowed to start work on the elaboration of a Guidance on Post-Trauma Recovery and Reconstruction of World Heritage properties (available on ICOMOS website at the following address <http://openarchive.icomos.org/1763/>). This document should be considered as provisional and ICOMOS will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders towards the elaboration of guiding principles on reconstruction, to be presented to the World Heritage Committee.
56. ICCROM-ATHAR, in partnership with the Louvre-Lens Museum (France), co-organized a colloquium from 20 – 21 January 2017 on the theme of endangered heritage (see webpage: <http://www.iccrom.org/results-of-louvre-lens-symposium/>). The event brought together specialists from international organizations including the European Commission, World Bank, World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, ALECSO, IRCICA, and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, as well as representatives from several governments

and universities in France, Europe, and the Middle East. The colloquium, based on first-hand regional and international experiences, provided an opportunity for participants to discuss approaches towards heritage reconstruction by comparing examples from different periods and regions. It addressed recovery, reconstruction, or reconstitution of a destroyed heritage asset while posing technical, scientific, and methodological questions, together with ethical, economic and political ones. It also discussed various viewpoints on post-conflict reconstruction and the work of international organizations. A number of presentations focused on the role of development agencies in reconstruction processes and strategy development for areas emerging from armed conflict. The proceedings of this workshop will be published in 2017.

57. The World Heritage Centre organized a coordination meeting for the Ancient City of Aleppo in March 2017, in Beirut, in cooperation with UNESCO Beirut (see webpage: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1639>). The meeting addressed challenges, needed resources, consultations and coordination mechanisms, at the national and international levels, and funding. During the meeting, the Syrian stakeholders recommended that all international partners harmonize their views on the reconstruction of Aleppo, in view of the many approaches and plans in the making.
58. UNESCO is currently launching in partnership with the World Bank the development of a "*White Paper*" on the reconstruction of cities following a conflict or major natural disaster. The *Paper* will draw on the current reflection within the heritage sector, notably on the work done so far by UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM, and taking into account the 2011 UNESCO *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL), including a glossary of definitions, as well as social humanitarian and developmental aspects of post-trauma recovery strategies, to develop a multi-sectoral approach to the reconstruction of cities having a significant cultural heritage dimension.
59. Thanks to the financial contribution of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the World Heritage Centre will implement a project to document case-studies, good and bad practices on cultural heritage reconstruction in post-conflict and post-disaster situations, with the support of cultural heritage experts who have been involved in concrete reconstruction experiences. The documentation gathered will be made available on the World Heritage Centre website.
60. An International Symposium on the Future of the Buddha Statues is planned in Tokyo on 27–30 September 2017 within the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-In-Trust project, in which experts will present proposals for physical and non-physical reconstruction and for the revitalisation of the eastern Buddha statues (Bamiyan, Afghanistan). The report and selected proposals will be sent to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review and also for the examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.
61. The various meetings described above outlined the need to systematically embed risk mitigation measures within management plans of World Heritage properties, implement these measures rigorously, and reinforce capacity-building efforts. They also highlighted the need to maintain close cooperation and dialogue with States Parties and site managers, which are involved in recovery plans, whether in relation to cultural heritage in general, or World Heritage in particular.
62. Final guidance on the theme of recovery and reconstruction will be proposed for inclusion in the *Operational Guidelines* when the reflection and consultation on these themes will reach a critical mass of knowledge, and intellectual and technical maturity.
63. As part of the initiatives undertaken by States Parties, the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) of the Republic of Korea, and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) organized an international conference on World Heritage Interpretation in Seoul, on 2 November 2016, interpretation being a theme that is

closely linked to post-conflict and post-disaster recovery processes. The conference was attended by more than 100 participants including Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, the Director of the World Heritage Centre, experts from the ICOMOS International Committee on Interpretation and Presentation (ICIP). The conference emphasized the coherent linkage of interpretation and presentation, with the need for such process to be based on a scientific and objective research on the sites whilst utilizing up-to-date technology for enhanced information outreach. Participants agreed on the need of a more in-depth thematic study on heritage interpretation to be conducted within the scope of the *World Heritage Convention*. The thematic study should be able to determine the wide spectrum of memory heritage and the appropriate strategy to use for the interpretation of World Heritage sites and to assist States Parties and the World Heritage Committee in its deliberations.

64. The Nakhon Phanom Statement on World Heritage of Religious Interest was adopted at the International consultative workshop on the conservation and management of the World Heritage of religious interest (see webpage: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1375/>) by the participants from twelve States Parties of the Asia-Pacific region (Thailand, May 2017). In their statement, the workshop participants underlined that “... *taking into account specific circumstances of the Asia-Pacific region in the context of destruction due to natural disasters, as well as in the context of cultural practices, associated with merit-making, central to religious practices of many belief systems of the region, special attention should be paid, in property management plans, to defining guidance for possible reconstruction of World Heritage properties of religious interest*”.
65. In light of the above, it is recommended that the Committee continue to support efforts undertaken towards the elaboration of new guidance to reflect the multi-faceted challenges that reconstruction brings, its social and economic context, the short- and long-term needs of properties, and the idea of reconstruction as a process that should be undertaken within the framework of the OUV of the properties.
66. It is also recommended that the Committee support the inclusion of risk mitigation measures in the Management Plans of World Heritage properties and their systematic enforcement, the reinforcement of capacity-building efforts in the framework of recovery plans, and the need to maintain close consultation, cooperation and dialogue with States Parties and site managers, which are involved in recovery plans.

B. Climate change

67. The 40th session of the World Heritage Committee considered the situation regarding the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties, and in Decision **40 COM 7**, the Committee:
 - took note of the Paris Agreement and its accompanying decision adopted during the 21st session of the Conference (COP21) of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in 2015, and requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to assist States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* to implement appropriate management responses to the adverse effects of climate change ;
 - recommended that the World Heritage Centre strengthen its relationship with other organizations working on climate change, particularly with the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) secretariats, and specifically with regard to the effect of climate change on World Heritage properties, and also requested the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to work with IPCC with the objective of considering the

inclusion of a specific chapter on natural and cultural World Heritage in future IPCC assessment reports ;

- requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to periodically review and update the “Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”, so as to make available the most current knowledge and technology on the subject to guide the decisions and actions of the World Heritage community.
68. In response to the Committee’s Decision, the World Heritage Centre, via the UNESCO Task Force on Climate Change, has been in contact with the Secretariat of the IPCC. In September 2016, the IPCC submitted a questionnaire to the Task Force, aiming at identifying policy relevant questions and scientific and technical topics to be addressed in the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). In March 2017, it also submitted the IPCC Chairperson’s “Vision Paper” prepared for the Scoping Meeting of the IPCC-AR6 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2017). The World Heritage Centre provided a contribution to these documents in which it emphasized that heritage is both impacted by Climate Change and a source of resilience for communities. Indeed, local communities’ knowledge and practices, their ecological understanding, environmental conservation and weather forecasting skills, *inter alia*, constitute an invaluable repository of strategies to cope with Climate Change-induced natural disasters, for example. Promoting mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change through strengthened safeguarding and management of natural and cultural heritage is essential; hence the importance to improve the treatment of heritage in both AR6 and in the IPCC’s Chairperson’s “Vision Paper”.
69. In addition, as part of the updated “UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change”, approved by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 201st session in April 2017 (201 EX/Decision 5.I.B), World Heritage has been included at various levels, including in Thematic Action Focus Area C “*Promoting cultural diversity and cultural heritage safeguarding for Climate Change mitigation and adaptation*” and has been taken into account as one of the implementation modalities, together with the other UNESCO designated sites.
70. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that the concerns regarding the potential adverse impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties have greatly increased in the last year. For example, the Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles), the Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems (France) and Papahānaumokuākea (USA), among other, have been seriously affected. The most widely reported Climate Change related issue affecting a single property has been the sequential mass coral bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef (Australia) in both 2016 and 2017, and the State Party of Australia provided information about the ongoing major bleaching event that is affecting this property. This matter is also mentioned in the relevant item under Agenda Item 7B, and will need to be fully assessed as part of the Committee’s further consideration. The bleaching on broad spatial scales – “mass bleaching” – is caused by heat stress, associated with global Climate Change and exacerbated by large climatic variability such as El Niño and La Niña events. As rising atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has raised temperatures in the ocean, heat stress events causing coral bleaching have become more frequent and severe. Scientists have documented three global mass coral bleaching events, in 1998-99, in 2010 and one ongoing since mid-2014. The three warmest years on record have been 2014, 2015 and 2016, and 11 of the 12 warmest years have occurred this century.
71. The World Heritage List currently includes 29 natural properties with coral reef systems, and there are a number of cultural sites that also include coral reefs that may be important in sustaining and supporting their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

72. In view of the serious impacts of the recent coral bleaching event, and its global nature, the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with IUCN, has initiated a scientific assessment by independent experts to better understand the current scale of impacts from coral bleaching on natural World Heritage properties, based, inter alia, on the latest satellite data from the United States National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Watch and available peer-reviewed scientific literature. The assessment, whilst still being developed, clearly indicates that the three global bleaching events have caused severe bleaching and mortality of corals in many of the coral reefs in World Heritage properties, and that these impacts are likely to be severe in future.
73. It appears that nearly half of the natural properties that include coral reefs were exposed to levels of heat stress that cause coral bleaching, on average, more than twice per decade during the 1985-2013 period. Almost three quarters have been exposed to severe and/or repeated heat stress during the past three years alone. Only four properties escaped bleaching-level heat stress during the most recent 3-year bleaching event. Coral mortality during the latest global bleaching event most likely has been the worst ever observed, including at World Heritage property reefs.
74. Existing scientific evidence clearly shows that coral reefs, including those on the World Heritage List, will be significantly impacted in the future as oceans continue to warm. However, ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement, which pursues efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, would both reduce impacts and allow further time for solutions to be found, and the assessment will provide precision on this general scenario. Maintaining and restoring the OUV of coral reefs on the World Heritage List therefore requires urgent and ambitious global action to limit the impacts of Climate Change.
75. Certainly, coral bleaching is only one of the possible negative impacts that Climate Change may have on World Heritage properties. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will endeavor to undertake further work and encourage work by leading scientists to the extent possible and as resources allow. In this way, they will be able to quantify and advise the Committee on future risks and the scale of impacts for different types of natural and cultural properties where global scale impacts can be anticipated, beyond the immediate attention on coral reefs. They will communicate the results of their work as it becomes available.
76. While reducing other pressures remains key to the maintenance and restoration of World Heritage properties impacted by Climate Change, the recent severe impacts on World Heritage coral reefs, and the growing evidence of climate impacts across World Heritage properties confirm that urgent and rapid action to reduce global warming is essential and the highest degree of ambition and leadership by all countries is needed to secure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC, which has agreed on “holding *the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels*”.
77. In line with the previous requests of the World Heritage Committee, and in view of the urgency of the issue of climate impacts on World Heritage properties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies aim, subject to available time and resources, to prioritize work on a proposed update to the “Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties”, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018. IUCN and ICCROM, with the support of Norway, and in cooperation with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, will also be bringing forward proposals for a new programme of capacity building on Climate Change adaptation, as discussed under Item 6 of the Committee’s agenda (see Document WHC/17/41.COM/6). IUCN further notes that, as reported under Item 5B, it

will complete the results of the second global assessment of its World Heritage Outlook in November 2017, and will include, as part of this assessment the anticipated impacts of Climate Change on natural properties.

C. Urban pressure

78. World Heritage properties whose Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is based on urban attributes, represent the majority of cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. To this, are added many properties where conservation involves consideration of human development in general, territorial and urban more particularly, as a factor having, or likely to have, an impact on the OUV. Thus, this makes urban pressure a serious threat, ascertained or potential, that requires specific action, carried out at several levels of the protection and management process of the properties.
79. The exponential urbanization experienced by the world for a century and the important urban development that characterizes the last thirty years result in the fact that more than half of humanity today lives in an urban environment. By 2050, this unprecedented phenomena will result in 70% of the 9.5 billion human beings living in urban areas. This observation has led the international community to define a specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) concerning the issue of urbanization and urban development, in the framework of the Sustainable Development Programme for 2030. It concerns the SDG 11, that aims to « *make the towns and human establishments open to all, safe, resilient and sustainable* » and Target 4 has as goal to « *strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage* ».
80. The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito (Ecuador) in October 2016, concluded with the adoption of a « *New Urban Agenda* ». UNESCO, like the other Agencies and Programmes of the United Nations system, contributed to the discussions that were held over nearly three years to establish a strategic orientation document. UNESCO's contribution, in addition to its participation in several preparatory thematic meetings, consisted of a Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development. This unprecedented report treated the question of the protection of urban heritage in all its forms and proposed a vision in line with SDG 11 as regards the role that culture should play in urban development in the world in the coming fifteen years.
81. Moreover, the « *New Urban Agenda* » and the Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development strengthens the application of the *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2011*.
82. Therefore, it is recommended that the conclusions of the Global Report are taken into consideration so that adequate measures for the management of urban development be adopted and implemented. The World Heritage properties where this approach could be applied are numerous.
83. Putting culture in the centre of urban development strategies places humankind, in all its complexity and diversity, at the heart of the process. Consequently, the protection and management of the sites that bear testimony to the history and identity of peoples becomes an integral part of policies established to ensure a prosperous and sustainable social framework.
84. The urbanization phenomena experienced by Africa, causes major impacts on World Heritage properties : on the one hand urban pressure threatens the OUV of properties such as Lamu Old Town (Kenya) and on the other, the presence of modern urban centres close to historic centres, such as the Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) give rise to an inverse movement of local populations, that, in search of economic resources and fleeing insecurity, abandon the historic centre thus causing its gradual and inescapable degradation.

85. In Asia, the reports on the state of conservation submitted to the Committee for the current session illustrate the difficulty in reconciling the overcrowding of historic centres, the needs in terms of infrastructure and heritage conservation. In Lahore (Pakistan), increasing urbanization and the need to provide the local populations with appropriate transport infrastructures have led to the development of a project for an overhead metro line likely to have a negative impact on the property Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan). Other cases, such as that of Macao (China), clearly show at what point, in the absence of adapted consultations and impact studies, new structures built to respond to pressure from increasing urbanization can damage a property, its immediate environment and the visual connection to and from this property.
86. The Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014-2024 clearly emphasizes at what point « *population growth and urban densification present a challenge for the Urban Heritage of the region due to its impact on quality of life and especially on certain vulnerable groups* », and underlines that despite some progress in this field, « *the coordination of conservation plans with comprehensive urban and territorial planning remains a priority for the region* ». The Action Plan also emphasizes the need for a better synergy between the different spheres of management competences linked to urban and heritage management. The issues related to urban pressure diversely affect the properties of the region, including recent cases or ones currently being examined by the World Heritage Committee, such as Brasilia (Brazil), the Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), the Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama), the City of Quito (Ecuador) or the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) and the Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru), among others.
87. In the Arab States region, the issue of sustainable conservation and management of Petra (Jordan) has become indissociable from human and urban development experienced in the immediate vicinity of the property. The problematic raised by this development is directly linked to the issue of the demographic and social evolution of the local communities and the economic stakes, notably concerning tourism, around the flagship heritage site of Jordan.
88. In the Europe and North America region, urban pressure concerns all types of properties (cultural, cultural landscapes, natural and mixed). The problematic encountered comprises constructions and infrastructures within and around the properties, as well as serious alterations to the urban fabric or changes in use and functions of properties caused by urban pressure, as in Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) or around the Historic Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia). Moreover, property and commercial projects incompatible with the context and the OUV of properties are built or foreseen in Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City, in London, around the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church, and the little towns of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), and in the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria), or again in the Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey). This problematic affects a large number of properties over and above those that are the subject of a state of conservation report presented in the working documents of this Committee.
89. These threats and impacts highlight the lack of coherence between the objectives and the resources to achieve a territorial and urban development of cities, which integrates the protection of their OUV. Moreover, the weaknesses and contradictions at governance and management level, as well as a lack of coordination between the national and local priorities also conjugate to create insufficient consideration of the requirements of the *World Heritage Convention*.

D. Vandalism

90. Vandalism is an issue currently affecting a number of World Heritage properties. The term may refer to many types of property damage, such as graffiti, rubbish dumping, smashing off pieces of the heritage or defacement of other kinds. Although, generally speaking, some acts of vandalism (particularly graffiti) may be seen by some as artistic in nature, this is certainly not the case, when considering World Heritage properties, and may constitute a significant threat to their integrity. Of course, a larger, more willful destruction of a property for political or social reasons may also be considered vandalism. Vandalism may sometimes take place as isolated cases, or may be part of a pattern of damage over time. Unfortunately, however, this phenomenon is common to all regions of the world.
91. The World Heritage property of Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape in Chad has suffered from vandalism in the recent past, as some rock arts from the Archeï Valley (one of hundreds of sites with thousands of rock paintings and engravings) has been defaced with graffiti. It is believed that the graffiti, names written in French and Arabic, was the work of local youth.
92. In Kyoto, a number of cultural heritage buildings that form part of the World Heritage property were damaged when someone poured an oily substance on the walls and floor, leaving stains in various locations in the temples. These acts are similar to previous vandalism that took place in 2015 at 30 heritage sites in Japan. In addition to searching for the perpetrator, the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs is asking property owners to install security equipment and strengthen patrols at the affected properties.
93. Other sites that have suffered vandalism include Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta, Pakistan, and the Group of Monuments at Hampi in India. At Hampi, a protection force (HPF) has been established to patrol the property and its buffer zone, and security cameras will also be installed to discourage detrimental behavior. At Makli, a graffiti removal campaign has been carried out and preventive measures are now recommended.
94. In Latin America, some sites have suffered from vandalism including the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu in Peru, Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works in Chile, the National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers in Haiti. At Machu Picchu, the State Party recently enacted two regulations governing visitor behaviour and setting obligations, prohibitions and sanctions on those who vandalize the property.
95. In Venice (Italy), measures are being defined jointly between the Superintendence and the City to counteract the phenomenon of graphic vandalism; these measures include the drafting of guidelines to regulate the interventions of qualified operators on decorative surfaces or architecture and for citizens or visitors to voluntarily act on heritage protected by the law. In addition, a research, developed within the framework of the property's Management Plan, aims at carrying out a market survey on solvents and removers products to be used to remove graffiti, with the aims to identify effective non-toxic and bio-compatible solutions.
96. Acts of vandalism often reflect the alienation, which sometimes occurs between local populations and tourists, or may stem from grievances with management authorities. Much vandalism is also caused by tourists wishing to break off a souvenir to take home or make their "mark" on the heritage.
97. As already mentioned, better policing and strengthened security is one way to try to combat the problems of vandalism. But, other more creative, long-term solutions are also necessary. For example, the development of outreach programmes with the local community may be useful in creating an awareness of the damage that graffiti might

cause to their heritage. The stronger involvement of local community in the management and security of properties may also be a useful long-term solution.

98. In regard to problems created by tourists, working with tour operators is a good way to pass the word to visitors of the detrimental effects of vandalism. Awareness campaigns aimed directly at tourists may also be useful, and information should be provided in guidebooks (ICCRUM has advocated for this with publishers in the past) and on appropriate signage as well as and in hotels, restaurants, and shops. Innovative means can also be designed such as allowing visitors to take a photo at the property, which will be placed in a permanent site archive, which can be searched at a later date. Sites may also consider placing movable panels (in a way that does not compromise the visual qualities of the property) which can be written on by visitors and then later stored in the archive of the site. These solutions allow visitors to express themselves without leaving permanent marks or damage on the heritage.

E. Disasters Risk Reduction

99. Following the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in 2015, the UN General Assembly endorsed the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, the successor to the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*. The *Sendai Framework* unlike its predecessor, offers new opportunities for integrating heritage within DRR strategies and programmes at national level since it includes a number of important references to culture and heritage (e.g. paras 4, 5, 14, 16, 17, 19-c, 19-d, 24-d, 29, 30-d, 33), and explicitly calls for the protection of cultural heritage from disaster risks across its four priority areas of action, which are: 1) Understanding disaster risks; 2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; 3) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and 4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
100. As far as World Heritage is concerned, a *Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties* had been adopted by the Committee in 2007 (Decision **31 COM 7.1**), based on the structure of the *Hyogo Framework for Action*. This *Strategy* is still valid in its fundamental principles and priorities, but would benefit from an updating in light of the innovations introduced by the *Sendai Framework*. In this context, it would be important to undertake also a review of the progress made, at global level, in the implementation of the 2007 *Strategy*, notably to assess the extent to which World Heritage properties have integrated a DRR component in their management plans and systems. In this sense, in the revised Periodic Reporting questionnaire (see Agenda Item 10A), the *Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties* is referred to in connection with a number of questions pertaining to the establishment of national policies, to capacity-building needs and to relevant management tools (Questions 5.14, 9.1 in Section I and 5.3.2 and 5.3.9 in Section II). In addition, a specific question asks States Parties whether any use has been made of the *Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties* (Question 5.3.9 of Section II).
101. The updating of the 2007 *Strategy* in light of the *Sendai Framework* should take into consideration developments taking place at the broader UNESCO level, notably in relation to the *Strategy for reinforcing UNESCO’s Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict* adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2015 (see Part II above). The Action Plan for the implementation of this latter *Strategy*, indeed, includes consideration for disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards, as decided by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 201st session, and provides an integrated approach to dealing with emergencies across all components of culture. The implementation of the Action Plan, including the establishment of the Rapid Response Mechanism, relies significantly on

extra-budgetary resources and notably on the above-mentioned Heritage Emergency Fund (see Part II). Established in 2015 for the protection of heritage in emergency situations, the Fund has responded so far to a number of disaster situations affecting cultural heritage, for example at the ancient city of Bagan in Myanmar, hit by a powerful earthquake, or more recently in Haiti, Ecuador and Peru, enabling UNESCO to assist Member States in the related Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNAs) exercises, as far as culture is concerned.

102. Unless substantial extra-budgetary resources are mobilized by the Organization in the future, therefore, the ability of UNESCO to effectively assist Member States in preventing, mitigating and recovering losses to their cultural and natural heritage from disasters or conflicts will be severely limited.

F. Invasive species

103. At its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the World Heritage Committee noted with concern the significant threat posed by invasive species to natural World Heritage properties and had strongly encouraged States Parties to develop adequately resourced strategies to eradicate invasive species in World Heritage properties and prevent their (re-)introduction and/or establishment.
104. However, natural and mixed World Heritage properties continue to face threats from invasive alien species (IAS) in terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems. Out of the 58 reports on natural and mixed properties prepared for consideration at the 41st session, IAS was raised as a concern in 15 properties, such as the Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica), Chitwan National Park (Nepal), East Rennell (Solomon Islands) and Everglades National Park (United States of America). In Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe) for example, the presence and spread of *Lantana camara*, a species listed on the 100 of the world's worst invasive alien species on the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database, has been an ongoing threat to the native plant biodiversity and herbivore carrying capacity, requiring the implementation of continued joint eradication efforts by the States Parties.
105. Recalling that the 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook identified IAS to be one of the most serious current threats to natural World Heritage, it is essential that the Management Plans for natural World Heritage properties incorporate a strategy on IAS and ensure there is capacity for its effective implementation. These strategies need to be ecosystem-based, incorporate stakeholder consultation, and emphasize prevention and early detection with rapid response measure. Genovesi and Monaco (2013)² have produced guidelines for addressing IAS in protected areas, identifying eight key components, which include: raise awareness on biological invasions at all levels; integrate invasive species and protected area management; implement site-based prevention actions as a priority; develop staff capacities; set up rapid detection and prompt response framework; manage IAS beyond the protected area boundaries; implement surveillance, monitoring and information exchange networks.
106. The *Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species*³, established at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, also identifies the integration of IAS into planning and management for protected areas, as one of the urgent measures that need to be undertaken in order to protect biodiversity and human wellbeing from the impact of IAS.

² Genovesi, P. and Monaco, A. 2013. Guidelines for addressing invasive species in protected areas. Chapter 22, in: Foxcroft et al. (eds) Plant invasions in Protected Areas. Patterns, problems and challenges. Springer Series in Invasion Ecology 7.

³ <https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/our-work/invasive-species/honolulu-challenge-invasive-alien-species>

G. Illegal trade of wildlife species

107. Illegal trade of wildlife species and its products from within natural World Heritage properties through poaching, particularly of elephant and rhinoceros, and illegal logging of valuable timber species is an ongoing threat to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties. Indeed, at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions, the Committee had already addressed this issue and expressed utmost concern about its continued impacts on World Heritage properties and the increasing involvement of organized crime and had launched an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
108. Since the 40th session, the World Heritage Centre has pursued its collaboration with the CITES Secretariat to fight against the escalation of the poaching crisis and the illicit trafficking of wildlife species and their products, including in the context of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/blg>) (also see Document WHC/17/41.COM/5A).
109. In 2017 WWF/Dalberg have issued a report, which included interviews with the CITES Secretariat, World Heritage Centre and IUCN on illegal wildlife trade of CITES-protected species from World Heritage properties. This report suggests that CITES-listed species are illegally harvested from 45% of natural World Heritage properties. The report additionally supports previous Committee decisions by highlighting the need to further strengthen the cooperation between the World Heritage Convention and CITES across the entire trade chain.
110. The 2016 Conference of the Parties to CITES passed a resolution that urges Parties to develop strategies to reduce demand for illegal products of wild animals and plants, to conduct regular research on the demand for specimens, to strengthen legal and enforcement deterrents, and to create greater awareness of the broader consequences and impacts of illegal harvest and trade of wildlife on livelihoods, sustainable development and the ecosystem. World Heritage properties, as emblematic habitats of threatened species, could act as sites to track the wider effectiveness of these interventions. The case of Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) and the efforts undertaken by the State Party to strengthen regional collaboration on halting illegal logging and trade in Siamese rosewood, provides an example thereof.
111. The 2016 African elephant poaching trend released by the CITES “Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants” (MIKE) Programme estimates a continued decline of elephant populations, especially in Central and West Africa due to high levels of poaching for their ivory. Ongoing insecurity and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for example, is leading to the continued decrease of elephants in Garamba National Park, which requires international collaboration.

H. Integrated approaches for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage

112. Although it is increasingly recognized that integrated approaches can improve the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, their systematic examination in the context of the Reactive Monitoring process of the *World Heritage Convention* is only beginning to emerge. This has been motivated by a number of factors, such as the growing interest by practitioners and the adoption of a *Policy Document for the integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* by the General Assembly in 2015 (see Document WHC/17/41.COM/5C). This policy encourages States Parties to recognize and promote the inherent potential of properties to contribute to all dimensions of sustainable

development – which are interdependent and mutually reinforcing – and work to harness the collective benefits for society, also by ensuring that the conservation and management strategies are aligned with broader sustainable development objectives. These aims are closely linked to and can be realized through integrated approaches.

113. It has been broadly stressed that one of the most unique characteristics of the *Convention* is that it addresses the protection of both natural and cultural heritage. The *Operational Guidelines* refer to linkages between nature and culture with respect to collaboration between IUCN and ICOMOS during their evaluation processes (Annex 6), stating that “most properties nominated to the World Heritage List include aspects of management related to the interaction of nature and culture”. The importance of integrated approaches extends beyond the nomination phase, as they strengthen holistic governance, improve conservation outcomes and contribute to sustainable development at all types of properties. Therefore, they are mutually beneficial to realizing the conservation objectives of the *Convention* while also assisting in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
114. Efforts to recognize linkages between nature and culture have been discussed on many occasions by the Committee. These include the introduction of new categories of heritage sites through recognition of cultural landscapes as early as 1992 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/>), the adoption of unified selection criteria since 2005 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/>) and the more recent reflection on processes for mixed nominations (see Document WHC-15/39.COM/9B). The ever growing interest to recover and mainstream integrated approaches was explored in issue no.75 of the World Heritage magazine dedicated to “Culture-Nature Links” (April 2015, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/75/>). This trend was also evidenced at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, which featured a number of events thematically grouped as the “Nature and Culture Journey” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1563>). The “Nature and Culture Journey” will continue at the Scientific Symposium to be held in conjunction with the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly in December 2017 in Delhi, India.
115. A number of initiatives that promote integrated conservation of natural and cultural heritage already exist. Among others, UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have had a Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity since 2010 (a progress report of the programme is available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-28-en.pdf>).
116. Development of new approaches towards integrated conservation of cultural and natural heritage has also been explored in the Connecting Practice initiative of ICOMOS and IUCN, and is the key focus of the new capacity-building programme, *World Heritage Leadership*, a partnership of ICCROM and IUCN, implemented in cooperation with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment and the Swiss Government. It should also be noted that extensive research has been conducted on integrated approaches. Universities can be valuable partners in both research and capacity building efforts. As an example, Tsukuba University in Japan had undertaken a 5 year programme of workshops on various aspects of culture-nature linkages. The 2016 workshop covered agricultural landscapes, and the 2017 workshop will focus on sacred landscapes.
117. Based on state of conservation reports, national authorities and conservation practitioners are making notable efforts in developing and applying integrated approaches, which are particularly demonstrated at mixed properties. For example, all three mixed properties in the Africa Region examined by the Committee in 2017 – Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho/South Africa), Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda (Gabon) and Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania) –

have made progress to strengthen holistic and integrated governance of natural and cultural heritage.

118. In the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, the case of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu is an example of combined efforts made by the national authorities at inter-institutional and multidisciplinary levels in order to reach an integrated management approach to face the multiple conservation challenges on cultural and natural aspects at the property. The establishment of a centralized management unit in charge of adopting strategic decisions in terms of conservation and management has greatly improved the decision-making process at the property. The active and reinforced cooperation between relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels have contributed to improve governance arrangements. Furthermore, innovative approaches to ensure that the links between cultural and natural aspects that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Machu Picchu are sufficiently taken into account are now being explored. In this sense, a project is under consideration to establish at the property a Biosphere Reserve, within the framework of the MAB Programme, which will englobe a wider protection zone around the property, including the Choquequirao and other sensitive areas. The proposal seeks to integrate the Andean and Amazonian territories of the property and to diversify visitor itineraries to guarantee its sustainable conservation and to ensure the maintenance of its natural values with the aim to stimulate sustainable economic development of the whole region.
119. Similarly, integrated approaches are often successfully applied at specific types of properties, such as cultural landscapes, which aim to safeguard not only the inter-linkages between cultural and biological diversity but also the intangible aspects of heritage. Progress made at properties such as the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy in Indonesia to strengthen community participation and to support traditional ways of living while ensuring protection of its OUV can provide valuable lessons for the benefit of other properties.
120. The positive trend to apply integrated approaches is also visible within some States Parties' recent requests for International Assistance, which involve identifying cultural values and incorporating them into management of natural properties. The (successful) request by the State Party of Botswana aims to review the management plan for the Okavango Delta in order to accommodate traditional resource use for livelihoods, user access rights, cultural rights and participation.
121. In light of the growing evidence that integrated approaches to conservation of natural and cultural heritage improve the state of conservation of properties, while contributing to sustainable development, it is recommended that the Committee recall the potential of the *Convention* to promote these approaches, acknowledge the growing interest of States Parties and heritage practitioners to develop and apply them and encourage the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in cooperation with universities and other relevant actors, to continue and expand these efforts, in line with the World Heritage "Sustainable Development policy".

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/7, WHC/17/41.COM/7A, WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add, WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/17/41.COM/7B and WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Thanks the State Party of Poland, Host Country of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, 2017), for having organized the first World Heritage Site Managers Forum, as a capacity-building exercise aiming at increasing the understanding of the World Heritage decision-making process among site managers, in order to achieve a more effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and encourages the future Host Countries of the Committee sessions to continue this initiative;

Statutory matters related to Reactive Monitoring

4. Takes note of the practices of the Secretariat to address mass campaigns on state of conservation issues;

Emergency situations resulting from conflicts

5. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in several countries, the loss of human life as well as the degradation of humanitarian conditions and expresses its utmost concern at the damage sustained and the threats facing cultural and natural heritage in general;
6. Urges all parties associated with conflicts to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural and natural heritage and to fulfill their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and the sites included in the Tentative List;
7. Also urges States Parties to adopt measures against using World Heritage properties for military purposes;
8. Takes note of the progress made by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to launch a reflection on a post-conflict recovery strategy, and of the support extended so far through technical assistance, capacity-building, and exchange of best practices in this regard, and recommends that further support for threatened or damaged World Heritage properties be pursued;
9. Notes with concern that the conflict situation in several countries in the world has increased considerably the workload of the World Heritage Centre staff, and that an adequate implementation of the Action Plans for the Emergency Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Mali, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen requires additional financial and human resources at the World Heritage Centre and in the UNESCO field offices; also notes the increased demands on the resources of the Advisory Bodies;
10. Calls on the international community to provide financial support for the implementation of the UNESCO Action Plans for the Emergency Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in

Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, including for additional human resources at the World Heritage Centre and in the UNESCO field offices;

11. *Also expresses its utmost concern about the impacts of conflicts causing an escalation of the already severe poaching crisis, as armed groups are financing their activities through illegal wildlife trade, which is having a severe impact on African wildlife, and uncontrolled development, threatening the very survival of species and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of natural World Heritage properties;*
12. *Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage objects (UNESCO 1970 Convention) and illegal wildlife trade, including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and to pursue the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding cultural heritage protection in conflict areas, especially Resolution 2199 and 2347;*

Other conservation issues

Reconstruction

13. *Noting the continued need to address the issue of reconstruction in World Heritage properties following conflicts or disasters, expresses its satisfaction that several international meetings have taken place or are being planned on recovery at large, and reconstruction in particular;*
14. *Encourages the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue, with all relevant stakeholders, the reflection on reconstruction within World Heritage properties as a complex multi-disciplinary process, towards developing new guidance to reflect the multi-faceted challenges that reconstruction brings, its social and economic context, the short- and long-term needs of properties, and the idea of reconstruction as a process that should be undertaken within the framework of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the properties;*
15. *Urges States Parties to include risk mitigation measures in the management plans of World Heritage properties to address the potential effects of conflicts or disasters on their integrity;*
16. *Encourages the inclusion of capacity-building initiatives in the framework of recovery plans;*
17. *Requests the States Parties involved in reconstruction projects to maintain dialogue and close consultation and cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

Climate change

18. *Recalls its Decision 40 COM 7 in relation to Climate Change, and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to pursue the implementation of this Decision as a priority, within available resources;*
19. *Expresses its utmost concern regarding the reported serious impacts from coral bleaching that have affected World Heritage properties in 2016-17 and that the majority of World Heritage Coral Reefs are expected to be seriously impacted by Climate Change;*

20. *Noting that the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with IUCN, has initiated a scientific assessment by independent experts to better understand the impacts of Climate Change on coral reef World Heritage properties, also requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as resources allow, to complete this assessment as soon as possible, and to ensure its findings are communicated effectively, and further requests the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to further study the current and potential impacts of Climate Change on the OUV of World Heritage properties;*
21. *Reiterates the importance of States Parties undertaking the most ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and strongly invites all States Parties to ratify the Paris Agreement at the earliest possible opportunity and to undertake actions to address Climate Change under the Paris Agreement that are fully consistent with their obligations within the World Heritage Convention to protect the OUV of all World Heritage properties;*
22. *Takes note with satisfaction of the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, approved by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 201st session in April 2017 (201 EX/Decision 5.1.B), and invites all States Parties to engage fully with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for its effective implementation;*
23. *Also recalls the need for all States Parties to continue, and where necessary to strengthen all efforts to build resilience of World Heritage properties to Climate Change, including by further reducing to the greatest extent possible all other pressures and threats, and by developing and implementing climate adaptation strategies for properties at risk of Climate Change impacts;*
24. *Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to report on progress in relation to action on World Heritage and Climate Change, and to present, subject to available time and resources, a proposed update to the “Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties”, for possible consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*

Urban pressure

25. *Noting that the increasing urban pressure in and around numerous World Heritage properties has become a major threat to their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),*
26. *Taking note of the outcomes of the Habitat III Conference and notably the adoption of the “New Urban Agenda”,*
27. *Also taking note of the necessity to pursue the application of the Historic Urban Landscape approach towards a more effective and durable conservation and management of the urban heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List, and requests the States Parties to fully consider the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) ;*
28. *Calls on States Parties to take into account the recommendations of the Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development and take the necessary measures to integrate the role of culture in sustainable urban development in order to achieve SDG 11 – Target 4;*

Vandalism

29. *Notes with concern increasing vandalism at World Heritage properties and encourages States Parties to improve monitoring and security measures as well as awareness raising on the detrimental effects of vandalism, and to consider introducing creative solutions to allow visitors to express themselves without leaving permanent marks or damage;*

Disasters Risk Reduction

30. *Welcomes the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for reinforcing UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict (hereafter the Strategy), adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2015 (38 C/Res.48), whose implementation would be of great importance for the protection of World Heritage in situations of armed conflicts and disasters associated with natural and human-made hazards;*
31. *Encourages States Parties to provide support to the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan, including through contributions to the Heritage Emergency Fund, as well as in kind contributions and advocacy at the highest international levels for the integration of a concern for culture in key international humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping operations;*

Invasive species

32. *Recalling its Decision **39 COM 7**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
33. *Noting with concern the continued threat posed by invasive alien species on natural World Heritage properties, strongly encourages the States Parties to develop adequately resourced invasive alien species strategies that emphasize prevention and early warning and rapid response in World Heritage properties;*

Illegal trade of wildlife species

34. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the continued impacts of poaching and illegal logging on World Heritage properties driven primarily by the illegal trade of wildlife species and its products, and requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to take action, as resources permit, to strengthen the collaboration between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Heritage Convention;*
35. *Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trade in wildlife and its products, including through the implementation of the CITES, and with the full engagement of transit and destination countries;*

Integrated approaches for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage

36. *Recalling that the World Heritage Convention explicitly links the concepts of cultural and natural heritage, highlights the importance of promoting integrated approaches that strengthen holistic governance, improve conservation outcomes and contribute to sustainable development;*
37. *Notes with appreciation the growing interest and efforts by the States Parties and heritage practitioners to develop and apply integrated approaches to conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and encourages the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in cooperation with universities and other relevant*

actors, to continue and expand these efforts, in accordance with the Policy Document for the integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the Convention (2015).