



41 Session
World Heritage Committee
Poland 2017
41 session
Comité du patrimoine mondial
Pologne 2017



‘Culture : Urban Future’ The Role of Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Local Development

Thursday 6 July, 2017
Room S3, ICE Krakow

Newsletter

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‘Culture : Urban Future’ The Role of Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Local Development

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The side event **‘Culture : Urban Future’ – The Role of Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Local Development** will discuss the role of cultural heritage for sustainable urban development, over a working lunch, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

In an effort to address the rising challenges of the increasingly urbanized world, the UNESCO Global Report, *Culture: Urban Future*, published in October 2016, explores the role of culture for sustainable urban development and provided concrete guidelines and good practices for local and national authorities and civil society, to integrate culture into urban policies as a unique resource for urban regeneration and innovation, and social, economic and environmental development.

The UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), adopted in 2011, features largely in this report, as it represents a landmark guideline to achieve an integrated approach to cultural heritage conservation for sustainable urban development, reaching beyond traditional efforts that limit conservation to the monuments and physical elements of historic centres.

The side event will also be an opportunity to enlarge the UNESCO Urban Network on Culture which was launched in January 2017 to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO Global Report.



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Programme

Introduction

13:15-13:30 *Francesco Bandarin* ADG for Culture

Panel

Moderated by *Mike Turner* UNESCO Chair, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design

13.45-13.55 *Jad Tabet* Member, UNESCO World Heritage Committee

13.55-14.05 *Yonca Erkan* Urban Heritage Coordinator, WHC

14.05-14.15 *Joe King* Unit Director, Sites Unit, ICCROM

14.15-14.25 *Webber Ndoro* Director, African World Heritage Fund

14.25-14.35 *Ege Yildirim* Focal Point for the UN SDG Process, ICOMOS

14.35-14.55 **Discussion**

Opening and Welcome

Mr. Francesco Bandarin, ADG Culture briefed on the UNESCO initiative on Urban Heritage. He specifically introduced the Global Report for Sustainable Urban Development as well as the UNESCO Urban Network to pursue this goal. Reporting to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda were at the heart of his presentation along with the importance of good practices and manuals.



Panel Discussion

The Panel was moderated by **Prof. Mike Turner**. He identified the present situation with a need for an “Acquis Culturel”. Culture, a driver for sustainable development in the form of a noun appears frequently in the many texts, whereas he identified culture as an adjective as an enabler for sustainable development. He also talked about the Global report in its policies based on people, environment and policies.



Mr. Jad Tabet, gave an overview of urban conservation activities. He highlighted that the spirit of the time is enshrined in urban interventions, indicating that reconstructions following the WWII and present destructions due to armed conflicts were not the same. The recent capacity building activities of ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, UN Habitat and UNISDR have shaped the current agenda



Ms. Yonca Erkan presented the work conducted by UNESCO on the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including case studies reporting, the questionnaire and the capacity building activities. The interlinkages of HUL between Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda highlighted these synergies.



Mr. Webber Ndoro, talked about the contribution of World Heritage to the Sustainable Development Goals, in specific to African properties. In Southern Africa most people live outside of the historic core due to maintenance costs, yet protection can only be effective when the properties are kept in use. Museum-like approaches should therefore not be preferred.





Ms. Ege Yıldırım reflected upon the ICOMOS executive approach to urban heritage. Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and specifically target 11.4 is at the heart of ICOMOS mission. Partnerships are also of key importance giving the example of the UCLG in setting up the links with local governments. ICOMOS defined an action plan for the same.

Mr. Joe King identified the impacts of urbanization on cultural landscapes, natural areas, agricultural land, the shape of the landscape and on intangible aspects. He specifically explained the capacity building activities ICCROM has conducted over years to highlight urban issues with emphasis on the changes of migrations and the memory of place.



Discussions

The World Heritage Committee decisions (41COM) and ensuing discussions underlined the increasing challenges urban areas are facing.

A lively exchange took place focusing on two major issues – role of the private sector and urban reconstructions. The role of the private sector in shaping the urban agenda was brought up and created a lengthy discussion. There has been a general consensus in the room that private business should be approached as a key stakeholder along with others and should not be left outside of the urban agenda. It was expressed that when they are approached rather than to solicit funding perhaps there is more that private business can provide, such as expertise and skills.

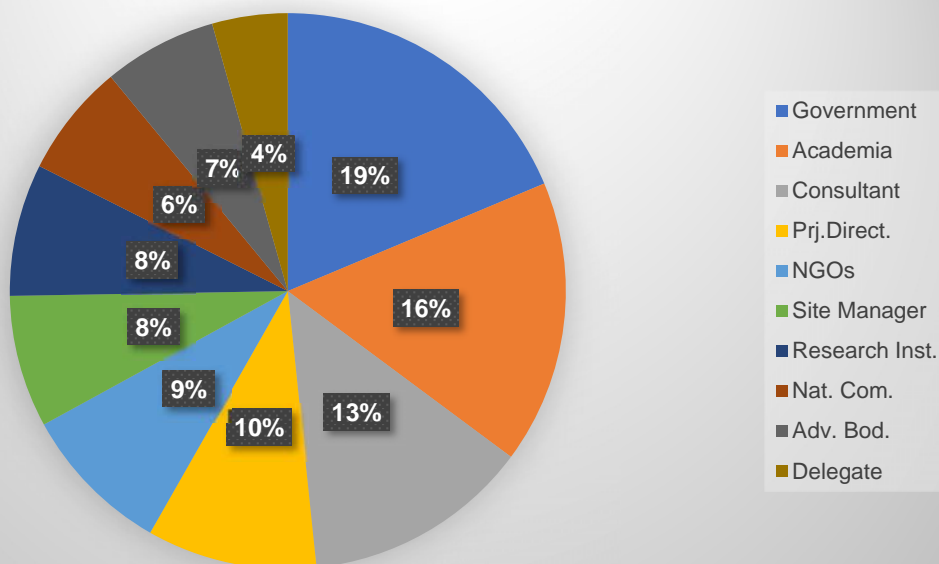
Reconstruction as an urban strategy has drawn attention throughout the 41st Committee Meeting and at the many side events. The key aspect of these discussions was to be able to offer an humanitarian approach and should not only mean a physical construction activity. As a new initiative, UNESCO has signed a MoU with the World Bank on reconstruction activities. The upcoming meeting of the World Economic Forum, will host a session on cultural heritage, stands out as a new approach to urban conservation.



Participants

There were almost a hundred participants in the event. It is understood that there was a diverse group of people from different sectors of heritage protection. Ambassadors to UNESCO, representatives of permanent delegations, government representatives, academicians and researchers, representatives of the Advisory Bodies and NGO representatives were present in the room. The majority of the attendees were from Government sector (Government, Nat. Com., Delegates) followed by academia (academics and research institutions).

Sectoral Division of Participants



Future Collaboration

Thank you for participating in the UNESCO Side Event on Culture: Urban Future in 41st session of the World Heritage Committee , Krakow.

The UNESCO Global Report Culture: Urban Future can be downloaded online at www.unesco.org

We are particularly interested in connecting with you and learning more about your specific activities.

If you think your work is a good practice example please share it with us.

Please join us in strenghtening efforts to protect and safeguard world's cultural and natural heritage to make our cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

For further information

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