

Historic Jeddah, the Gate of Makkah **State of Conservation Report**

November 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the inscription of Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage and the Central Municipality of Jeddah (Amana) have been actively implementing the strategy presented in the Nomination File and in the Action Plan submitted to UNESCO.

In our previous SOC, we highlighted a series of achieved major results since the inscription, namely:

- The enactment of the new Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law, in 2015 provides the essential legal framework allowing the implementation of the action plans.
- Preparation of new Building Regulation for the historic area, to guide and control site conservation and renovation, legally enforced on field by the Amana in 2017.
- The completed historic buildings inventory provides the basis for the sound strategy for historic buildings design, conservation and rehabilitation.
- Permitting the on-field technical and administrative teams work from SCTH and the Amana.
- Monitoring mechanisms and team coordination are now in place with active involvement of local and international experts in the protection of the property, and
- Organizing cultural initiatives focusing on the city's heritage, creating a renewed attention in Jeddah residents for their history and their city.

Though much still needs to be done, the on-site situation continues to be worrying. With many historic buildings susceptible to sudden collapse due to un-intentional and natural causes, raising a red flag for the intervention by the central government, and pushing the Regional and Provincial Governments to ask for the assistance of His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman ibn Abdel-Aziz for an emergency budget.

The State Party considers that the preparation of this State of Conservation report provides an opportunity to show our transparency to the international community and to support the daily conservation efforts carried out on field by technical teams. Furthermore, an occasion to assess, at the national and international levels, the results achieved and the issues that still need to be tackled for the long-term preservation and revitalization of the Historic City of Jeddah. The State party is pleased to comply with the Decision 40 COM 7B .27 as it did in decision 38 COM AB 2.1, and to bring all relevant requested information to the attention of the World Heritage Committee.

On behalf of SCTH

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