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Paris, 31 January 2018

Dear Director Rössler,

In accordance with the Decision "39 COM 7B.83" adopted at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee held in 2015, in Bonn, I have the pleasure to attach herewith the the State of Conservation (SOC) report of the "Historic Areas of Istanbul" for the examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

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

My very best regards,

Ahmet Altay CENGİZER
Permanent Delegate

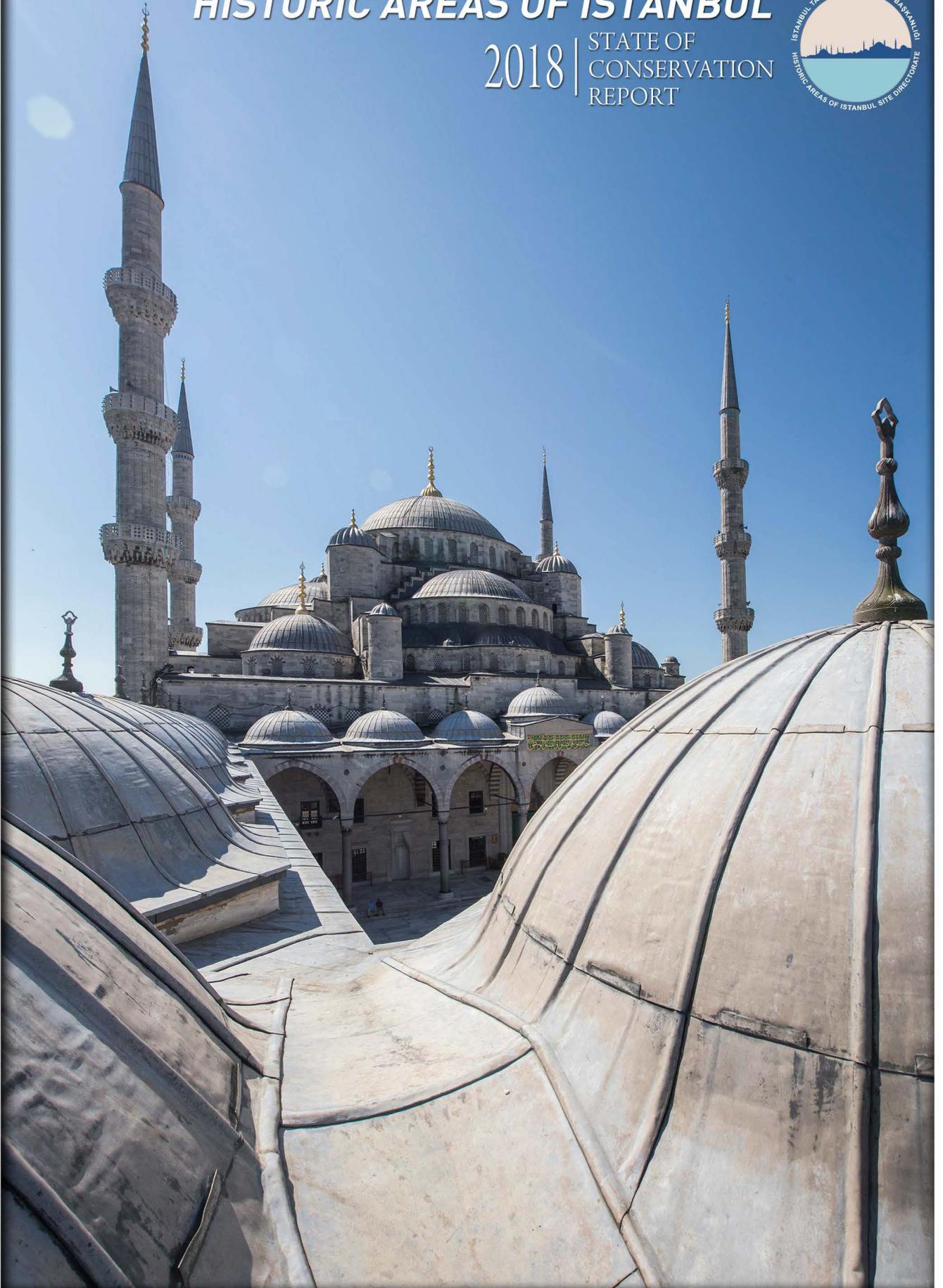
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Mrs. Mechtild Rössler, Director of the Division for
Heritage and the World Heritage Center
UNESCO
Paris

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HISTORIC AREAS OF ISTANBUL

2018 | STATE OF
CONSERVATION
REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was prepared in line with Article 12 of the **Decision 41COM 7B.52** that "*requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.*" with respect to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's decision on Historic Areas of Istanbul at its 41st Session held in Krakow, Poland.

The first part of the three-part report is devoted to the projects and works referred in the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Decision. The second part includes issues, not covered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Decision, especially transportation projects and other projects within Historic Peninsula Management Area and its surrounding area. The third part is dedicated to education, awareness raising and promotion work, carried out by the relevant institutions and organizations.

The ventilation shaft of the **Eurasia Tunnel Project** on the European side was constructed 5 meters above ground so as not to disturb the Historic Peninsula silhouette, in line with the views of the Conservation Board No 4. An "Air Quality Report" has been prepared by independent consultants on the possible impact of the tunnel on outdoor air quality. In addition, the "air quality monitoring station", the location of which was determined in the light of the opinions of independent consultants, is positioned near the ventilation shaft to determine the possible effect on outdoor air quality. Three major pollutants, PM10, CO and NO₂, are measured at the station. According to this, it is seen that the tunnel has got a positive impact on air quality in the region according to the measurements made before and after the operation. Tunnels contribution to the economy and transportation since 2017 is included in the report in detail.

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the **Yenikapı Reclamation Area Activity Tent Project**, is about to be finalized. As soon as it is completed, it will be submitted to the World Heritage Center for evaluation of the relevant Advisory Bodies.

Planetarium, within the legend of "City Park" in zoning status, has a construction area of 7.246 m². Project is decided with the aim of comprehending basic sciences, giving basic information on astronomy and space sciences, building up a space center which will provide an environment especially for young population and relevant amateurs to improve themselves, contributing to country's development by increasing youth's interest in sciences and contributing to urban value of İstanbul. There are planetarium, seminar hall, library, conference and activity halls, exhibition halls,

workshop area, cafeteria, kitchen, souvenir shops, 3D hall, interactive performance hall, personnel units, executive offices, archive and technical units in the Project.

Istanbul City Museum Project, aims to tell the 8,500 year-old story of Istanbul to visitors focusing on its different dimensions. It is not only an inventory museum with a library, children's workshop, showroom, activity areas, restaurants, cafes and a temporary exhibition hall but the aim is to make it a living building contributing to the city. In addition to these functions for visitors, there will be comprehensive conservation, restoration laboratories and museum offices. The Istanbul Museum will also host an infrastructure aiming to serve the science of museology.

The museum is located not only according to the transport lines but also to the intersection of the Marmara and the Historic Peninsula axes and its form is shaped according to the viewpoints overlooking the city walls and the sea. The purpose of founding a city museum, aiming to be easily accessible for visitors, is to establish a unique connection with the city and with its bridge to the Historic Peninsula.

The museum building, which has a closed shape giving the impression of being carved from a massive mass, has a horizontal form that is in harmony with the walls in the vicinity and that does not enter into a hierarchical competition with them. It is thanks to its simple façades that the museum, horizontal yet monumental, becomes easily visible without casting shadow on the rich historic texture surrounding it; these façades transform historic strata into textures and resemble the tectonic structure of the topography.

The **Canakkale 1915 Museum** was cancelled by the authorized institution in the light of the studies and examinations carried out.

A joint work has been initiated by the Istanbul Site Management Directorate and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Cultural Heritage Conservation Directorate on the **Ottoman timber houses**. The aim of the work is to document existing traditional Ottoman timber and stone structures and to prepare the basis for the immediate action plan to prevent decay and loss of such structures.

Registration slips have been prepared in line with the Council of Europe standards for all registered structures in the area by the Cultural Heritage Conservation Directorate. The registration slip includes all the data concerning the structure in detail. As a result of the quantitative analyzes performed jointly by the Cultural Heritage Conservation Directorate and the Site Management Directorate, the structures that require immediate intervention but preserve physical authenticity and under the private ownership that can be saved by simple maintenance and restoration work were identified for the first phase. The

structures that preserve physical authenticity and under the private ownership but can be saved by carrying out significant restoration work were identified for the second phase. Within the scope of the project, it is planned to carry out urgent maintenance and restoration work in the shortest time possible to prevent ongoing decay and losses by cooperating with the institutions and the persons who are proprietors of the buildings.

With respect to the **Management Plan**; a law amendment was made on 7 September 2016 while the works to update the Historic Peninsula Management Plan approved in 2001 continued. In accordance with the new Law, Architect Dr. Halil ONUR was appointed as the Historic Areas of Istanbul Site Manager by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism on 07 December 2016. The expert members of the new Advisory Board and relevant institutions were also identified and the list was sent to the Site Management Directorate upon the 18.01.2017 dated approval. However, as the bylaw of the relevant law has not yet been issued. According to the meetings and contact with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the protocol between the Ministry and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) is to be signed, in order to conduct bureaucratic operations by the IMM as it was before.

After the revisions, the opinions of all the institutions and organizations defined as the relevant and responsible institutions in the management plan and the expert members of the Advisory Board were asked on the final version of the plan in November 2017. Once the approval process for the Management Plan is finalized in line with the opinions received, it will be submitted to the World Heritage Center for evaluation by the relevant Advisory Bodies.

Site Management Directorate carries out a study concerning the **OUV Statement and Significance of the Site**. Several different methodologies developed under the coordination of Asst. Assoc. Prof. Mine Topçubaşı Çilingiroğlu, an expert in urban protected areas, from Gebze Advanced Technology University were tried to determine whether they are the suitable for the needs and potential of the property. With the clarification of the methodology to be employed, the data available will be processed and synthesized. This will form the basis for the draft text.

Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment is quite an effective and important tool in order for specialists working on cultural heritage, institutions that have the authority to carry out projects at national and/or local scale, project developers, contractors, institutions, organizations and stakeholders with influence over the projects or affected by projects to set the balance for conservation and development work carried out for the World Heritage Areas. Site Management Directorate organizes a **Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) Workshop** so that managers, designers, planners, contractors, consultants and local / central decision-making bodies realize that this tool is constructive rather than restrictive and that they take advantage of this attribute. The workshop will be carried out under the

auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism under the coordination of the Istanbul Sites Management Directorate with the support of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Cultural Properties Directorate and in collaboration with universities and NGOs.

In the renewal areas projects, instead of just focusing on restoration and conservation works on buildings, the aim is to assess the whole area with a holistic approach together with street texture and infrastructure. The Fatih Municipality has revised the renovation area projects to ensure effective participation of relevant stakeholders and to implement block-based applications. The latest status of the projects and the current phase are explained in the report.

The works carried out within the scope of **large-scale restoration projects** carried out on the the Chora Museum, Land Walls, Molla Zeyrek Mosque, the Boukoleon Palace by the the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Foundations, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Fatih Municipality are explained in detail in the report and presented in the Annex. (Annex 1. Restorations Works in Chora Museum)

Heritage Impact Assessment for the Hagia Sophia Medrese was submitted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to the UNESCO World Heritage Center. As a result of the HIA study the Ministerial Consent was given and the works on the site has been started at 11.12.2017 under the supervision of Istanbul Directorate of Surveying and Monuments and surveillances of Istanbul Central and Regional Directory of Restoration and Conservation Laboratory, Hagia Sophia Museum Directory and Hagia Sophia Scientific Board in accordance with the projects approved by Istanbul Regional Conservation Council No.4.

Works conducted by the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Cultural Heritage Project Directorate Landwalls between Mevlanakapı-Belgratkapı, within the scope of the results, acquired detailed and meticulous research and studies are included in the report. Restoration works conducted regarding Molla Zeyrek Mosque by the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Civil Works Department of Construction Works Directorate, is given in the enclosed document. (Annex 2. Molla Zeyrek Mosque Restoration Works) Details of the works conducted by the Fatih Municipality regarding the Bukoleon Palace is included in the report.

Projects and works, not covered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's Decision, are included in the second part of the report. The projects, especially transportation, park and recreation projects and other projects, conducted within Historic Peninsula and its surrounding area are included in detail at this part.

Report's third part is consist of the Promotion, Awareness Raising and Training activities. This part contains information about the training and awareness raising activities carried out mainly by the Istanbul Sites Management Directorate and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Conservation, Implementation and Control Bureau (KUDEB). The most remarkable one was conducted in September 2017, under the RISK MANAGEMENT theme of the Management Plan, a theoretical training and practice activity entitled "**Training on Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Properties**" by the Site Management Directorate with the cooperation of ICOMOS ICORP and GEAR. Within this scope, a practical training was provided at the stakeholder level, at the managerial level and at the technical teams level within the boundaries of the heritage area for the first time. The planned training helped share approaches to damage mitigation, preparation, intervention, improvement and restructuring phases in risk management for immovable and movable cultural heritage with the experts working in the field of conservation of cultural heritage at the strategic, tactical and operational level. For the first time the training program was designed and conducted to include a theoretical module, table exercises and emergency intervention exercises on the field in İstanbul and Ankara for 7 days.

Other important activity is the pilot project called "Heritage Istanbul and Children". Site Management Directorate conducted this project with the support of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Cultural Properties Directorate, in order to raise awareness among children, teachers and parents about existing heritage values through different multilateral, entertaining and interactive workshops. Within the scope of the project 73 children residing in Zeyrek did all-day long activities accompanied by the project and event team. Within the scope of the project, children participated in various neighborhood visits and photography activities promoting existing monumental properties and examples of civil architecture on site in Zeyrek that is one of the component sites of the World Heritage Area, as well as in workshops on seal and epitaph that are part of cultural heritage, a puppet workshop and a drama workshop that introduce historical characters that once lived in Zeyrek. At the end of the project, the activities of children were shared with the parents and the residents of the neighborhood by an exhibition.

Since its foundation IMM KUDEB, via its Timber and Masonry Workshops, has been organizing and conducting education programmes, workshops and seminars, publishing/distributing books and journals in order to raise qualified personnels regarding to conservation and restoration. KUDEB's activities, conducted in 2017, is presented in the Annex. (Annex 3 IMM KUDEB's Activities Conducted in 2017)

All the information and documents included in the report were obtained from authorized institutions and organizations.