Draft Decision 43 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision 41 COM 7B.43, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),

3. Takes note of some progress of the State Party in implementing previous Committee decisions and mission recommendations, but notes with concern that steps undertaken are insufficient and that some urgent matters are yet to be addressed;

4. Notes with great concern that the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission found that the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are deteriorated and, in some instances, irredeemably spoiled;

5. Notes with great concern that actions taken to date are not sufficient to reverse the current negative trend and to remove the substantial threats to the OUV of the property:
   - the size of ships allowed to moor at Nessebar Terminal remains excessive for the property and is likely to cause additional negative visual impacts and serious pressures;
   - the OUV of the property remains peripheral in the property’s overall management;

6. Urges the State Party to devise a different strategy for the future of Nessebar, based on
sustainable, compatible and equitable development of the town, centred on its OUV, including the relocation of all tourist cruise terminals and commercial ports for large ships elsewhere along the coast outside the visual catchment of the property, and specifically to recover the terminal area using careful and light intervention compatible with the OUV of the property, and to reduce further and substantially the size of ships allowed to moor at Nessebar Port Terminal;

7. Notes with regret that the State Party has not complied with all of the requests expressed by the Committee in Decision 41 COM 7B.43, and considers that the property is prone to both ongoing ascertained and potential threats to the property in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines and therefore, decides to inscribe the Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

87. Strongly reiterates its requests to the State Party to:
   a) Establish as a matter of high priority the proposed high-level inter-ministerial committee, supported by a working group and by all relevant institutions, tasked with the development of an OUV-based shared vision for Nessebar, which orients all present and future decisions about the property’s enhancement and development, and will be pivotal for all current and future plans and projects,
   b) Finalize, adopt and implement the Conservation Management Plan, Detailed Development Plan and General Development Master Plan, based on the OUV of the property, as well as to continue enforcing the existing protection regimes,
   c) Further develop the overall sustainable mobility programme to ensure the smooth circulation of residents, visitors and goods within the property, and between the mainland and the property,
   d) Implement fully all of the recommendations of the 2018 mission as well as all previous mission recommendations that are yet to be addressed;

8. Also requests the State Party to invite an enlarged joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and ascertain the progress made by the State Party;

9. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures with a timeframe for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;

105. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2021, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th-45th session, with a view to determining whether any threat to the property constitutes an ascertained or potential danger to its OUV and would warrant its potential inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.