

## Executive summary

The Chinese Government attaches vital importance to the conservation of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa. By strict implementation of the World Heritage Convention, in accordance with requirements set out in the *Operational Guidelines* and *Resource Manuals*, and with focus placed on the Outstanding Universal Value, the Chinese Government has carried out enormous work to exercise protection by law, enhance capacity building, inventory heritage information, optimize monitoring system, conduct maintenance and preservation, improve visitor service and tourism management, strengthen safety control, and facilitate value research.

The report mainly provides detailed explanation in response to Decision 42 COM 7B adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session pertaining to the state of conservation of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa.

Long-term and enduring efforts have enabled a good state of conservation of the Cultural World Heritage property. Nevertheless, we are deeply regretful for the fire accident occurring in the Jokhang Temple Monastery in February 2018. We launched effective rescue responses immediately after the fire accident and the follow-up efforts by various parties have reduced the loss to the extent possible. The Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace have not suffered any damage. The safety of the statue of Sakyamuni Buddha, the most important carrier of the OUV of Jokhang Temple, was ensured. The World Heritage Centre and its advisory body carried out a Joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property from April 8th to 15th, 2019.

And the conservation plan of each component of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, namely the Potala Palace, the Jokhang Temple Monastery and Norbulingka, has been compiled and is undergoing expert examination procedures. The plans will enable needs and bottom lines of heritage protection to be integrated into the overall management of Lhasa city, ensuring the heritage areas and buffer zones of the World Cultural Heritage to be fully protected. They will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee for consultation in the near future.

The report also introduces the measures taken to inheritance and development of Tibetan

traditional craftsmanship and some policies for pilgrims and tourists. The three components have been open to Buddhists in Tibet for free, providing convenience for related pilgrimage activities. In recent years, faced with the increasing pressure on the conservation and management work as a result of the surge in the number of tourists, the protection and management body of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace in Lhasa have taken a series of measures, such as Tourists Current-Limiting, Ticket Reservation Scheme, etc.

Futhermore, the TV tower on Chakpori Hill which mentioned in Decision 42 COM 7B was established in March 1985. Long before the Potala Palace was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994, the tower had been built and put into use. Although the TV tower affects the landscape around the Potala Palace to some extent, but it is an important facility for the well-being of people in the Tibet Autonomous Region. The local authorities will strengthen coordination and cooperation to protect the landscape setting and control new construction activities.