

**Austria's contribution to the work of the Open-ended working group
(transmitted by email format on 15 April 2021)**

Austria has the honour to submit her observations prior to the 3rd meeting of the open-ended working group of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention on the elaboration of a Code of Conduct, or a Statement of Ethical Principles or equivalent text.

Austria supports the Non-Paper dated 1 June 2019 and elaborated in the framework of the Ad-Hoc Working Group established by the World Heritage Committee and the written contribution by Sweden. We believe that a Code of Conduct, as proposed in the Non-Paper, can serve as a helpful tool to uphold the credibility and integrity of the World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage Committee, and its decisions. A Code of Conduct would not entail additional obligations for State Parties but serve as a valuable summary and reminder of the already existing obligations and rules derived from the Convention and the Operational Guidelines.

As a minor amendment to the draft document, Austria suggests moving article 12, that addresses the recognition of OUV only at time of inscription, further up, considering its importance and ramifications for the Committee's decisions and States Parties' inscription policies and strategies.