

0-DRAFT

Introduction to [Code of Conduct, Ethical principles or similar text. Hereinafter: [TEXT]]

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) (hereinafter: the *Convention*) establishes an international community working together to recognise and protect the world's universally significant and outstanding examples of cultural diversity and natural wealth. The States Parties to the Convention have a shared commitment to preserving and safeguarding our legacy for future generations. The *Convention* plays a vital role in promoting peace through mutual understanding and dialogue and celebrating cultural diversity, and is recognised as an important instrument contributing to international peace, sustainable development and the advancement of humanity.

Purpose and scope

This [TEXT] is a means to safeguard the international solidarity, cooperation and concern for natural and cultural heritage, the shared commitment to preserve our legacy and to uphold the integrity and credibility of the Convention, the World Heritage List and the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage properties.

The World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre (hereinafter: the Secretariat), the Advisory Bodies and the States Parties to the Convention have a collective responsibility to uphold credibility, integrity and high professional standards of the Convention and its implementation. The [TEXT] expresses a commitment to impartial decision making by qualified experts in the fields of natural and cultural heritage based on objective and scientific considerations.

The provisions of the World Heritage Convention, its Operational Guidelines and Rules of Procedure govern the work of all stakeholders. The [TEXT] complements these documents providing an ethical guideline and statement of good practice principles and commitments for pursuing the highest standards of integrity and conduct. Importantly, the [TEXT] does not impact the sovereignty of the States Parties, the terms of the World Heritage Convention, its Operational Guidelines or Rules of Procedure.

The [TEXT] is enacted when agreed and adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. New States Members of the World Heritage Committee commit to the [TEXT] when elected at the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.