



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF  
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS  
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

**(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)**



Name of World Heritage property: Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan, C 885).

1. Executive Summary of the report

This report informs about the progress made in the implementation of the Decision 44 COM 7A.31, Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) adopted at the 44th of the World Heritage Committee session (in Fajou, 2021).

The report was prepared by the Agency for Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Kashkadarya regional department of cultural heritage on response of the Decision 44 COM 7A.31.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger Please also provide detailed information on the following:

a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

*Item 2*

*Recalling Decisions 40 COM 7B.48, 41 COM 7A.57, and 42 COM 7A.4, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively, and Decision 43 COM 7A.44 adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), in which the Committee decided "to allow the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination, and at the end of this period, to consider once again whether*

*the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period to allow time, if by then a clear direction of travel has been articulated, or to delete the property altogether”, and that in exploring options, the State Party “should undertake further research and documentation and develop a restoration plan, in order to provide sufficient details to allow assessment of the potential for each option to justify OUV [Outstanding Universal Value], before any work is undertaken on a significant boundary modification in compliance with Paragraphs 165 and 166 of the Operational Guidelines or on a new nomination”, and further stated that the State Party is encouraged to “request upstream support in relation to the potential for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination to justify OUV”;*

Experts from the Institute Paris Region, Mr Eric Huybrechts, ICOMOS expert Ms Cristina Iamandi and local specialists have visited the Historical center of Shakhrisabz for many times since 2019 in order to discuss the future steps on the implementation of the Decisions of the World heritage Committee.

The detail research of the dwellings, monuments and urban structure has been carried out since April 2021. The Institut Paris Region is working on the restoration plan of two options requested in Decision 43 COM 7A.44. It is agreed that the proposals will be completed by 31 January 2022 and submitted to the State party. Then the proposals will be provided to the World Heritage Centre for its consideration.

The group of experts from Institut Paris Region had have a mission to Uzbekistan in January 2022 to arrange the final meetings with stakeholders.

### *Item 3*

*Notes that the State Party has created a Working Group, is drafting an Action Plan to implement the Committee’s past decisions and, in particular, is exploring the possibility of two options for a potential Significant Boundary Modification, as suggested by the Committee, with a preference for the option related to key elements of Timurid urbanism including the urban fabric of the mahallas, and that international professionals have been invited to assist in developing a draft outline of the preferred option for the way forward, based on detailed research and assessment, and that the Working Group will not complete its work until 31 December 2021;*

The Institute Paris Region is working on draft proposal for options. By January 2022 the draft proposals will be submitted to the State party and the World Heritage Centre for review. According to the chosen option, the proposal for the boundary modification will be prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

### *Item 4*

*Expresses its concern that the State Party could not submit, by the deadline of 1 February 2021, an outline option proposal for a significant boundary modification that might have the potential to justify OUV, and also notes that the State Party has explained this delay in relation to the global situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;*

Based on chosen option of the restoration plan prepared by the Institut Paris Region, the works for the boundary modification will be carried out.

### *Item 5*

*Agrees to extend the deadline by one year, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, details of a proposal for the preferred option and its potential to justify OUV, together with its implications in terms of restoration and conservation, for review by the Advisory Bodies and consideration at its 45th session;*

The State Party will submit the preferred option and justification for OUV, together with restoration and conservation terms, for review by the Advisory Bodies and consideration by its 45th session.

### *Item 6*

*Reiterates its intention to decide at its 45th session, in line with Decision 43 COM 7A.44 and following consideration of a submitted option proposal, whether:*

- 1. The option proposal has adequately indicated the potential to justify OUV, and the State Party should thus be encouraged to submit a detailed proposal for a Significant Boundary*

*Modification, in line with Paragraphs 165-166 of the Operational Guidelines, or a new Nomination, or*

2. *The details and assessment provided for the option selected do not adequately indicate the potential to justify OUV, and the property should thus be removed from the World Heritage List;*

The option proposal will adequately indicate the OUV, and the State Party will submit a detailed proposal for a boundary modification, in line with Paragraphs 165-166 of the Operational Guidelines, or a new Nomination by 1 February 2022 for consideration of the World Heritage Centre.

*Item 7*

*Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the outline proposal of the selected option is fully supported by adequate documentation and analysis of the urban form, its history and evolution, on the detailed form and characteristic of traditional houses, and on the comparison between what exists now and what existed before the recent demolitions;*

At the regional and local level, the two options have been already discussed in numerous meetings, stakeholder consultations and through dialogue with the community, including also the residents affected by the past demolitions.

Also, the Institut Paris Region was involved in the rehabilitation plan for historic centre of Shakhriyabz taking into account the World Heritage Decisions.

The detail research of the dwellings, monuments and urban structure has been carried out since April 2021 by local specialists under supervision of the Institut Paris Region. Based on collected documentation the analysis of the urban form, its history and evolution, on the detailed form and characteristic of traditional houses, and comparison between current situation and situation before demolitions was provided and all above mentioned aspects will be reflected in the proposals.

*Item 8*

*Further notes that, as the State Party's report and the additional map submitted on 17 February 2020 indicate, possibilities are being explored that include the 'restoration of the traditional setting of the streets in the historic period', the restoration of traditional houses and the development of new (restored) traditional houses in the empty space created by recent demolition, and considering that these could have an impact on the property's authenticity and integrity, reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to request upstream advice in the assessment of the options and development of the restoration plan, to be submitted to the Committee;*

The analysis of the architectural typology was carried out in June 2021. It served to identify the specificities of Shakhriyabz traditional domestic architecture as a basis to prepare the restoration plan of the Historic Centre. The principles of the different architectural types (design, materials, connection to the public domain, relation with the plot and the surroundings) is being highlighted to prepare some patterns for architectural restoration.

Also, a survey on traditional houses has been conducted during the mission of international experts in May 2021, while visiting several remarkable traditional houses. The documentation and collection of old photographs and architectural drawings including the layout, cross sections and façades of the traditional houses have been done and provided to the Archive section of the Tashkent Department of Cultural Heritage.

The survey results will be reflected in the restoration plan proposal is being implemented by the Institut Paris Region together with local specialists.

The draft proposal developed by the Institut Paris Region could be discussed during the working meetings with the International Advisory Committee for Uzbekistan. It is planned to arrange two meetings in 2022.

*Item 10*

*Encourages the State Party to ensure that the proposed Restoration Plan encompasses the mahallas, conservation works and new building, but strongly discourages an approach that relies on rebuilding copies of demolished buildings;*

The draft proposal will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration and commentaries.

*Item 11*

*Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to implement its recommendations for the conservation of the Ak-Saray Palace tiles, develop a conservation strategy and submit it to the World*

*Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any work is undertaken;*

The conservation strategy has not been developed yet. However, national multidisciplinary team including conservation scientists, chemical engineers, restorers and archaeologists, has been set up to examine the problem of Ak-Saray's falling tiles and outline a conservation strategy, in line with international conservation principles.

The report including the research results, final conclusions and recommendations will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

*Item 12*

*Reiterates moreover its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the December 2016 and January 2019 Reactive Monitoring missions to the property;*

The State Party have already started working on the implementation of the recommendations of the December 2016 and January 2019 Reactive Monitoring missions. Part of the documentation phase has been already completed, while other studies are under preparation. The contract with the Institute for the Institut Paris Region IDF was established. The term of reference of the Institut Paris Region includes analyzes of the two options indicated in the RMM report of 2019 and selects the one that has the potential to retain the property on the World Heritage List.

*Item 13*

*Also encourages the State Party to pursue the establishment and operation of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for all cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, which can advise on the conservation of the property and implementation of Committee decisions and previous mission recommendations;*

Based on World Heritage Decisions, the International Advisory Committee (IAC) was established. The official opening ceremony of the IAC took place in Khiva in September 2021. It is planned to arrange two IAC meetings in 2022.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

*[Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]*

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

*[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].*

6. Signature of the Authority

Shaxriyor Nurulloev

Director of the Cultural Heritage Agency

