

*STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT OF
HISTORIC CENTRE OF BUKHARA - THE WORLD HERITAGE
SITE*



November, 2022
Bukhara, Tashkent

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT 2021
Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (Nomination 602 bis)

Geographic coordinates: 39°46'39.2"N 64°24'33.2"E

Date of Inscription: 1993

Reporting period: 2021-2022

Responsible organizations for the preparation of the state of conservation report on the object:

Agency of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Khokimiyat of Bukhara region;

Bukhara regional department of cultural heritage.

The report was prepared for submission to the World Heritage Center.

Main indicators:

In 1993, the "Historic City of Bukhara" has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, according to criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi). The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been adopted in 2012.

Criterion (ii): The example of Bukhara in terms of its urban layout and buildings had a profound influence on the evolution and planning of towns in a wide region of Central Asia.

Criterion (iv): Bukhara is the most complete and unspoiled example of a medieval Central Asian town which has preserved its urban fabric to the present day.

Criterion (vi): Between the 9th and 16th centuries, Bukhara was the largest centre for Muslim theology, particularly on Sufism, in the Near East, with over two hundred mosques and more than a hundred madrasahs.

The State of Conservation report was required by World Heritage Committee, Decision 44 COM 7B.38, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022.

Agency of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Khokimiyat of Bukhara region together with the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Bukhara Region, having studied and prepared the necessary information required by the Decision No. 44 COM 7B.38 of the World Heritage Committee, reports the following:

1. Executive Summary

The city of Bukhara, like many other cities in Uzbekistan, is undergoing rapid urban transformation. In this process, the urban heritage of the Historic Centre of Bukhara is considered an important social, cultural and economic asset for the development of the city as a whole, mainly through sustainable tourism.

In order to reflect this approach, the legal and institutional frameworks have been amended and supplemented. The State Party adopted, in the last year, important legal and institutional measures to protect cultural heritage and control development:

- In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 3, 2021 "On measures to strengthen the protection of sites of the intangible cultural heritage and territories included in the UNESCO World heritage list" No. 119, Representatives of the Agency for Cultural Heritage and the Secretariat of the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO were included in the Procurement Commission when conducting public procurement for the preservation of tangible cultural heritage at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Also, liability for violation of the rules for the protection and use of cultural heritage applies to protected cultural properties situated within protected historical and cultural territories, including those inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as to buildings, structures and other objects, which are not considered objects of cultural heritage, but are located in the above-mentioned protected territories.

- In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 6, 2021 "On measures for further improvement of the public administration system in the sphere of tourism, sport and cultural heritage" № PF-6199, The Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture was abolished and the Cultural Heritage Agency under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (Currently Ministry of Tourism and Cultural heritage) was established on its basis. The Ministry of Tourism and Cultural heritage is now the coordinating body for the protection and development of cultural heritage and areas included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

At the same time, an appropriate department has been established under the General Prosecutor's Office to monitor the implementation of legislation in the field of cultural heritage, including the protection, preservation and rational use of cultural heritage.

Therefore, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan is obliged to ensure strict control over the prevention of landscaping and construction work on the territory of the cultural heritage sites, included the UNESCO World Heritage properties (except for projects agreed with relevant organizations).

- In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 19, 2021 "On measures to organize the activities of the Agency of cultural heritage under the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as innovative development of the sphere" PQ-5150, the Agency is a special authorized state management body in the field of tangible cultural heritage, museums, archaeology, export and import of cultural property. The Agency for Cultural Heritage is tasked with recommending historical sites for inclusion in the World Heritage List, implementing the requirements of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the recommendations and decisions of the World Heritage Center and the World Heritage Committee.

Following the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee, the moratorium has been extended to the buffer zone in Bukhara. The moratorium has been strictly enforced and it will continue to be so until the Master Plan and the Management Plan have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and adequate management systems, conservation, Heritage Impact Assessments and development policies and protocols are in place. The implementation of the moratorium is closely monitored.

- In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 427 of July 7, 2021, the Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage was established under the Cabinet of Ministers and its Charter was approved.

According to the resolution, the main tasks of the Inspectorate are:

- to carry out general monitoring of the condition of specially protected historical and cultural areas, including the sites of the UNESCO World Heritage List, to submit the results of monitoring to the Deputy Prime Minister for consideration in the prescribed manner;
- Participate in the development of management plans for specially protected historical and cultural areas, including the sites of the UNESCO World Heritage List;
- To make proposals to the Deputy Prime Minister on the establishment of cooperation in order to study the experience of advanced countries for the effective protection of UNESCO World Heritage sites;
- to control the conduct of construction, installation and beautification works in specially protected historical and cultural areas, in accordance with the historical and cultural value of the objects included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, without adversely affecting the universal value.

- In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 14, 2021 "On establishing and supporting the activities of the International Advisory Committee on cultural heritage issues in cooperation with UNESCO" No. 371, The International Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage was established, which included qualified foreign and local experts.

The main directions of the International Advisory Committee are:

- preparation of proposals for the inclusion of the cultural heritage of our country in the World Heritage List, which has made a worthy contribution to world culture, and expansion of cooperation in this regard with international organizations and UNESCO's advisory bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM);
- preparation scientific and practical proposals for strengthening the protection of cultural heritage objects and territories included in the World Heritage List, the reliable preservation of their universal value, participation in the implementation of relevant projects;
- Participate in the development of management plans of areas (objects) included in the World Heritage List, reports on the impact assessment of heritage and the preparation of proposals and recommendations for the rational development of historic cities to create a decent lifestyle for the population;
- Participate in the effective implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Uzbekistan and provide practical assistance in the preparation of national reports in this regard;
- scientific consideration of issues arising in the process of protection and rational use of cultural heritage objects, preparation of scientific and practical proposals for their solution;
- to hold international conferences and seminars-trainings in order to improve the skills of personnel in the field of cultural heritage, to assist in the development of methodological manuals.

A "Road map" has been developed to ensure the implementation of the World Heritage Committee Resolution 44 COM 7B.38, and all the tasks set out in it are being implemented step by step.

Finally, several major restoration projects and new constructions are planned in the property, including the restoration of Abdulazizkhan, Abdullakhan, Ulugbek, Miri Arab, Amir Olimkhan, Rashid madrasas and Kalon mosque, Khoja Kalon hauz and the reconstruction of the Shakhristan Market of Bukhara, among others. Documentation, drawings and Heritage Impact Assessments for all projects have been re-submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

2. Response to the Decision 44 COM 7B.38 of the World Heritage Committee

During the 44rd session of the World Heritage Committee, from July 16 to July 31, 2021 in Fuzhou, a decision No. **44 COM 7B.38** was adopted on the "Historic Centre of Bukhara".

Based on the requirements of this resolution, a roadmap has been developed to protect the historical center of Bukhara, accelerate the work on its preservation and ensure the implementation of the decision of the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

On the implementation of the decision of the World Heritage Center No. 44 COM 7B.38, reporting the following:

In response to paragraph 3:

Welcomes the recent decisions by the State Party to address some significant threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including the Roadmap for the implementation of the Committee's decisions, regulatory changes and continued improvements to management planning and guidance documents, the establishment of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan and of the Steering Committee, the suspension and revision of the Project of Detailed Planning (PDP) of 2017, and the current moratorium on demolition and development within the property and buffer zone;

According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 435 of June 9, 2018, construction and demolition works in the Bukhara Historical Center and its buffer zone has been suspended and marked as a special protected area, and the moratorium has not expired still.

Also, Law the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 560 was adopted, on August 30, 2019, which strictly specifies the measures to be taken in the event of the construction or demolition of buildings, structures and other objects that are not considered cultural heritage objects in the territories included in the World Heritage List and their buffer zones without permission in the prescribed manner.

The Detailed Planning Project, developed in 2017, has been suspended and all works on the property will be carried out in coordination with the Cultural Heritage Agency and the International Advisory Committee.

In response to paragraph 4:

Also welcomes in particular the creation of the Public Advisory Council to reinforce dialogue with local communities and increase the understanding of all stakeholders when it comes to rules and regulations concerning physical intervention within the property;

In accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 603 dated July 31, 2018, the Council for Architecture and Urban Planning was established in the Bukhara region.

The task of the Architectural and Urban Planning Council of the Bukhara region is to propose a comprehensive renovation of the social and engineering and transport infrastructure of settlements, the formation of modern urban centers, improving the comfort of the old living environment in terms of quality, and preserving objects of historical and architectural heritage. The Council makes recommendations to state and

economic management for the reconstruction of old urban areas, taking into account the qualitative increase in the comfort of the old living environment and the preservation of historical and architectural heritage sites.

The Department of Cultural Heritage of the Bukhara region is also a member of this Council and is constantly involved. One of the activities of the Council is based on consultation and dialog with local communities.

Also, approved composition of the Public Scientific Advisory Council under the Bukhara Regional Department of Cultural Heritage, consisting of local experts (ICOMOS members) to consider project proposals for demolition, construction, reconstruction (including light construction) works in the "Bukhara Historical Center" and its buffer zone, as well as in the protected areas of cultural heritage sites.

One of the main tasks of the Council is to review the projects of local residents on the repair of their houses and projects of entrepreneurs, and to make recommendations without adversely affecting the OUV of property.

Also, regular propaganda work is carried out among the population and entrepreneurs in the region to prevent unauthorized construction and demolition in the Historic Centre of Bukhara and its buffer zone by the Council members.



(photos from ongoing propaganda work)

In response to paragraph 5:

Takes note of the ongoing preparation of the Master Plan for the City and the integrated Management Plan for the property, noting that additional work is still needed to integrate the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), to coordinate with the Project for Detailed Planning of the Historical Centre of Bukhara, and to recognise adequately the World Heritage status of the property within the Master Plan, and requests that the moratorium on demolition and new development should remain in place until the Master Plan for the City and the integrated Management Plan for the property are finalised, following submission to the World Heritage Centre and positive review by the Advisory Bodies;

In accordance with the recommendations of the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the Historic Centre of Bukhara, the Directorate for construction, reconstruction and overhaul of important social, cultural and historical objects under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Culture and Bukhara regional administration in cooperation with “MADANIY MEROS LITI” LLC has developed a Detailed Planning Project for the Historical Centre of Bukhara, integrated into the Master Plan of Bukhara and presented to the World Heritage Center.

The Detailed Planning Project of the Bukhara Historical Center is re-developing by taking into account the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Center and the recommendations of Feng Jing and Richard Mackay, representatives of the Reactive Monitoring Mission of the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS, who visited in Bukhara region on January 17-19, 2020. Foreign experts are also involved in the working process.

Based on the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the Bukhara Historical Center, the Integrated Management Plan for the Bukhara Historical Center for 2017-2022, was prepared in cooperation with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS).

In preparing the Integrated Management Plan, all aspects of the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Bukhara Historical Center were taken into account.



(photos from the presentation of the draft Integrated Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Bukhara to the Reactive Monitoring Group)

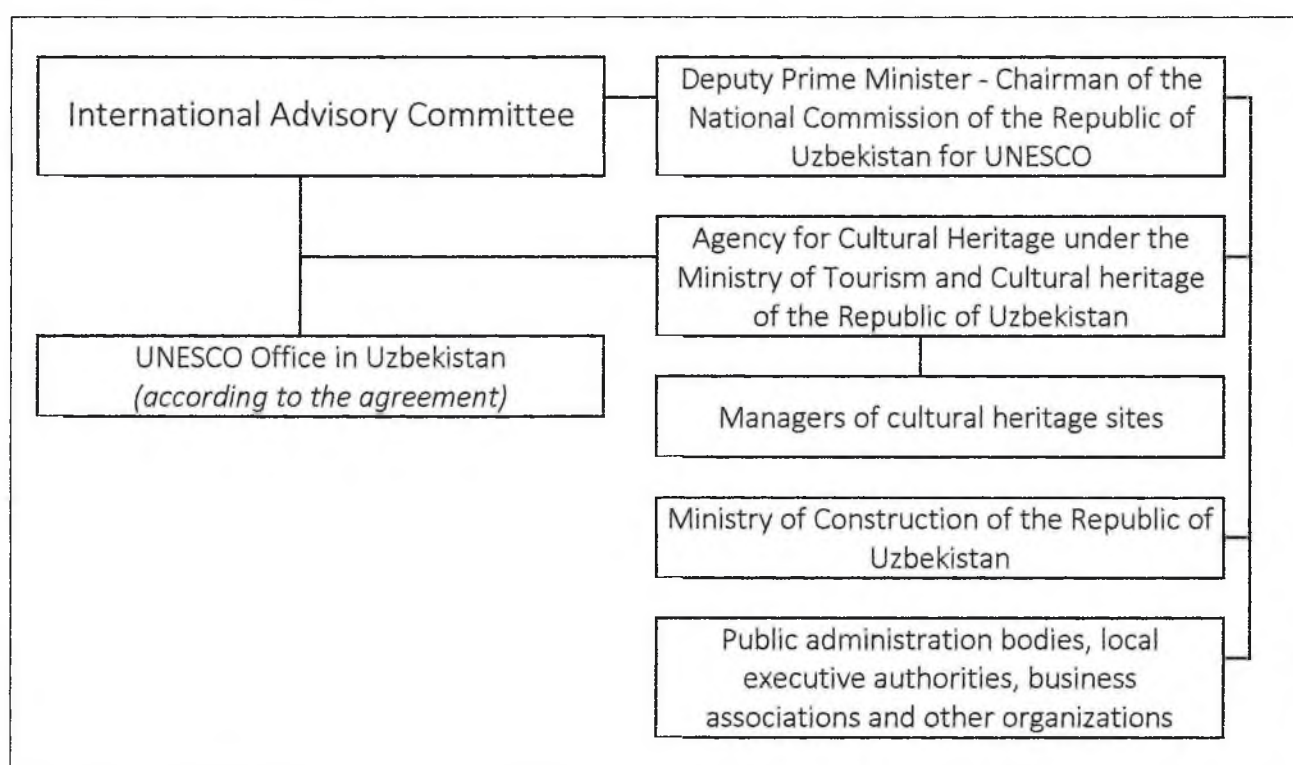
In 2022, it is planned to develop a new Integrated Management Plan for the Bukhara Historical Center and its buffer zone.

In response to paragraph 6:

Further welcomes the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and urges the State Party to implement its recommendations in full, having particular regard to:

- a) Improved communication concerning World Heritage requirements, processes and procedures, between the national, regional and municipal authorities of the State Party,*
- b) Capacity building and training regarding requirements of the Convention, the Operational Guidelines and the HUL Recommendation,*
- c) Priority for urgent structural stabilisation works to the Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah and further long-term conservation based on thorough investigations,*
- d) Protection of the mahalla residential areas and vernacular architecture, and preparation of guidelines covering conservation requirements and renovation approaches, infrastructure installation, and the location, scale and form of new developments, alterations and additions,*
- e) Improved public consultation and communication of World Heritage values to the local population;*

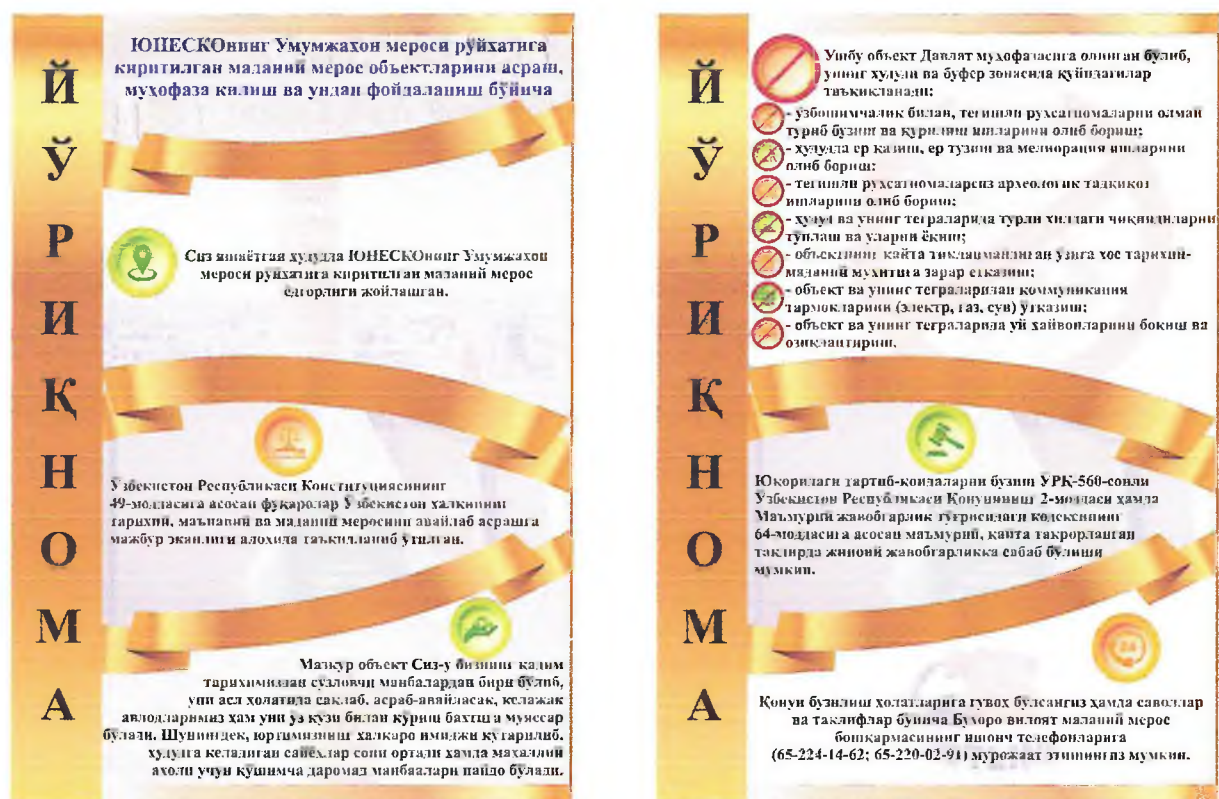
a) In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 371 of June 14, 2021, the scheme of cooperation of the International Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage with other organizations in Uzbekistan has been approved. According to the scheme, relations between local, national, regional and municipal authorities on the requirements, processes and procedures of the World Heritage will be established in the following form.



b) In 2021, seminars and conferences were organized in Shahrisabz and Khiva with the participation of international and local experts on the recommendations and requirements of the World Convention on Cultural and Natural Heritage, Operational Guidelines and (HUL).

c) In cooperation with the Public Scientific Advisory Council under the Bukhara Regional Department of Cultural Heritage, with the involvement of qualified specialists, defective acts on restoration and conservation of Abdulazizkhan Madrasah were drawn up and project documents are being developed on the basis of recommendations from the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS.

d) A guidelines covering conservation requirements and renovation approaches, infrastructure installation, and the location, scale and form of new developments, alterations and additions have been prepared in Uzbek, and presented to representatives of the population, entrepreneurs, as well as to the chairmen of the Mahalla (Committee) Residential Areas.



e) Members of the Public Scientific Advisory Council under the Bukhara Regional Department of Cultural Heritage regularly carry out propaganda and advocacy work among the population and entrepreneurs in the Bukhara historical center and its buffer zone to prevent unauthorised construction and demolition.

For information: According to the regulation No. 6/6684-5 of October 12, 2022 "On Construction-repair works damaging the historical value of cultural heritage

- objects, in particular, the "Historical Center of Bukhara" and private houses located in its buffer zone "The composition of the regional working group for the implementation of strict control measures to prevent illegal activities" has been approved by the Bukhara regional municipality and continuous monitoring is being carried out.

In addition, social networks, mass media and regional TV channels are carrying out propaganda work to the population living in the historical center of Bukhara and its protected area to prevent unauthorized construction and demolition. It is possible to watch promotional videos via the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAKN5maTecQ>

In response to paragraph 7:

Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies:

a) Revised project documentation for the proposed Shakhristan Bazaar development, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS technical review,

b) Revised project documentation for proposed conservation projects at Kalon Mosque, Ark Citadel, Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah, Mir Arab Madrassah, Amir Alimkhan Madrassah and Khoja Kalon Hauz, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of ICOMOS Technical Reviews,

c) Project documentation and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, for the projects proposed at Ulughbek Madrassah, Rashid Madrassah and the private hotel on Gavkushon Street,

d) Urban Design Guidelines with both principles and examples for urban works such as alterations to housing, infrastructure installation, and treatment of roads and public spaces;

Taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS, archeological research is being carried out in the Shahrستان market. After the presentation of the final archeological report by experts, it will be presented to the UNESCO World Heritage Center in the prescribed manner.

In addition, the other documents requested above will be revised in accordance with the recommendations and submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Center in the prescribed manner.

In response to paragraph 8:

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 also provide technical assistance for the Historic Centre of Bukhara, including representatives of regulatory authorities and appropriately skilled and experienced experts, to oversee conservation of the property, the protection of its OUV and the implementation of Committee's decisions and mission recommendations.

The International Advisory Committee on all World Cultural Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan has established systematic contacts with representatives of regulatory authorities, and if necessary, appropriately skilled and experienced experts are involved in the work of the International Advisory Committee.

Also, a delegation led by the secretary of the International Advisory Committee, Tamara Teneishvili, visited the Bukhara region on March 5-7, 2022, and got acquainted with the situation of state of preservation of the Historical center of Bukhara, visited 7 cultural heritage objects in the region that are included in the Tentative List, and got acquainted with the work done on the decision of the World Heritage Committee 44 COM 7V.38.

The first technical session of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) was held in Shakhrisyabz and Samarkand in July 2022. The aim of the IAC is to provide advice and support to the concerned local, regional, and national authorities of Uzbekistan, in line with and furthering the implementation of the relevant Decisions of the World Heritage Committee, and recommendations of past technical and advisory missions to the World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, and in accordance with the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, in particular, the Paragraph 172. The IAC convenes a group of international/ national and interdisciplinary experts suggested by the World Heritage Centre with the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM), endorsed by the State Party of Uzbekistan. It is planned to arrange a mission of 3 experts of IAC in March 2023 to visit the WH sites and provide capacity building trainings for local specialists

In response to paragraph 9:

Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.

This report was prepared with the involvement of qualified specialists and experts and provides information on the condition of the property and the implementation of the above.

In addition, information will be provided to the World Heritage Center on the measures to be taken to implement Resolution 44 COM 7B.38 of the World Heritage Committee.

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

Although many measures are being taken to develop, protect and preserve the Historical Center of Bukhara, but there are some natural problems. In particular:

- Many cultural heritage objects in the Bukhara region, particularly in the Historical Center of Bukhara, have been in a state of disrepair for many years due to a lack of restoration and conservation work.

In order to solve this problem quickly, It is advisable to organize a visit to Bukhara of experts from the World Heritage Center, ICOMOS and members of the International Advisory Committee in order to review the project documentation and receive conclusions and recommendations on the repaired cultural heritage objects.

- Due to the high level of salinity in Bukhara, some cultural heritage objects are becoming saline and eroded.

- Due to the proximity of groundwater in Bukhara, large amounts of water accumulate on the ground during the rainy seasons. This leads to serious damage to cultural heritage sites.

In order to overcome the above two problems, taking into account the opinion of UNESCO and ICOMOS experts, it is planned to install 15 vertical drainage wells and rain-snow water drainage system in the Historical Center of Bukhara and its buffer zone.

4. Potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

Several major restoration projects and new constructions are planned in the Historic Centre of Bukhara. Among them, the restoration of Abdullakhan, Abdullazizkhan, Ulugbek, Miri Arab, Amir Alimkhan Madrassas, Kalon minaret, Kalon mosque, Ark complex (Kushbegi, Sayskhona, Salomkhona and Takhtkhana courtyards) and the reconstruction of the Shakhristan market of Bukhara. Heritage Impact Assessments have been prepared for each of them and sent, together with the detailed drawings, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The World Heritage Center has given positive feedback on some of the projects. The projects which were rejected by the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS experts are being developed taking into account the suggestions and recommendations and will be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Center.

The project of restoration and conservation of Abdullakhan Madrasah submitted for the World heritage International Assistance was approved on April 2021 by the WHC and at present the 3D survey of the whole madrassah of Abdullakhan was completed and proceeding of the received data have been implemented. The project team has been working on the project documentation. All the works are coordinated by the Department of cultural heritage of Bukhara Region and UNESCO office in Tashkent.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The full report can be uploaded for public access.

6. Signature of the Authority



Director of Agency for Cultural Heritage of Republic of Uzbekistan

B.G.Abdikarimov