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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Eighteenth Extraordinary Session  
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters  
24 January 2023, 10 am – 6 pm**

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Nominations to the World Heritage List – Nominations to be processed on an emergency basis**

**INF.5.2: Factual errors letters**

**SUMMARY**

This document contains the factual errors letters received from States Parties in compliance with paragraph 150 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

**Alphabetical list by State Party of letters notifying factual errors in the evaluation reports of the Advisory Bodies relating to nominations to be examined at the 18th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee**

<b>State Party</b>	<b>World Heritage nomination</b>	<b>ID No.</b>	<b>Recomm.</b>	<b>Pp</b>
	<b>CULTURAL SITES</b>			
Lebanon	Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Date of receipt 08/04/2022)	1702	I + Danger	2
Ukraine	Historic Center of the Port City of Odesa (Date of receipt 11/10/2022)	1703	I + Danger	3
Yemen	Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba in Marib Governorate (Date of receipt 11/02/2022)	1700	I + Danger	7

**Factual errors letters are presented in the language in which they have been submitted by the State Party and presented following the English alphabetical order.**

## FORM FOR THE SUBMISSION OF FACTUAL ERRORS IN THE ADVISORY BODIES EVALUATIONS

(in compliance with Paragraph 150 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

**STATE(S) PARTY(IES): Lebanon**

**EVALUATION OF THE NOMINATION OF THE SITE: Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli**

**RELEVANT ADVISORY BODY'S EVALUATION: ICOMOS**

Page, column, line of the Advisory Body Evaluation	Sentence including the factual error (the factual error should be highlighted in bold)	Proposed correction by the State Party	Comment (if any) by the Advisory Body and/or the World Heritage Centre
Page 2, right column, paragraph 7, line 6	With <b>most</b> of the concrete structures completed	With <b>all</b> of the concrete structures completed	ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.
Page 3, left column, paragraph 5, lines 12, 13, 14	Only the Guest house, rehabilitated in 2016, the southern part of the Grand Canopy, restored to function between 1993 and 1997 and the front part of the open spaces and landscaping are judged in satisfactory conditions.	Only the Guest house, rehabilitated in 2016, the southern part of the Grand Canopy, restored to function between 1993 and 1997, <b>the entrance portico and administrative building restored in 1997</b> and the front part of the open spaces and landscaping are judged in satisfactory conditions.	ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not modify the meaning of the sentence.

## FORM FOR THE SUBMISSION OF FACTUAL ERRORS IN THE ADVISORY BODIES EVALUATIONS

(in compliance with Paragraph 150 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

**STATE(S) PARTY(IES):** Ukraine

**EVALUATION OF THE NOMINATION OF THE SITE:** Historic Center of the Port City of Odesa

**RELEVANT ADVISORY BODY'S EVALUATION:** ICOMOS

Page, column, line of the Advisory Body Evaluation	Sentence including the factual error (the factual error should be highlighted in bold)	Proposed correction by the State Party	Comment (if any) by the Advisory Body and/or the World Heritage Centre
Page1, Column 1, Line 14	The city was <b>founded</b> in 1794 by a strategic decision of <b>the Empress Catherine II</b> to build a warm-water port after the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792.	The city in its architectural and planning structure that is nominated has been developed since 1794 at the site of Kotsubiiv (Khadzhybei) settlement by a decision to set up a warm-water port after the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792.	The proposed correction refers to historical facts and the way the inscription on the World Heritage List is justified in the nomination dossier.  In the draft SOUV it is stated: "The historic center of the port city of Odesa in Ukraine represents an architectural ensemble that provides <b>a unique example of a newly founded city built in the late 18th century</b> on the northwestern shore of the Black Sea. <b>It was conceived</b> as a trade gateway /.../" (p.25, p.156) and then: "Criterion (iv): The historic center of Odesa is an outstanding <b>example of a newly founded town /.../"</b> (p. 26, p. 157).  ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which modifies the meaning of the sentence.
Page1, Column 1, Line 18	As the port prospered in the 19th century, the city grew rapidly, attracting residents <b>from within the empire and beyond</b> , but declined in the early 20th century.	As the port prospered in the 19th century, the city grew rapidly, attracting residents from all over the world, but declined in the early 20th century.	ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not modify the meaning of the sentence.
Page1, Column 1, Line 26	[...] the port was <b>developed in the 21st century</b> to become one of	[...] the port in its modern shape was built starting from the 19th century and developed in the	ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.

	the largest in the Black Sea.	21st century to become one of the largest in the Black Sea.	
Page 1, column 1, line 43	The nomination was submitted by the State Party as an emergency nomination because of the <b>invasion</b> of Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine.	The nomination was submitted by the State Party as an emergency nomination because of the full-scale invasion of Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine.	Neither in the nomination dossier nor in the additional information provided the phrase ‘full-scale invasion’ was used to describe factors affecting the property or to justify emergency procedure. The word ‘invasion’ is used only once in reference to the current war conflict.  ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not reflect the information provided at earlier stages in the nomination dossier.
Page 1, column 2, line 33  Page 1, column 2, line 39	<b>Khadzhibey</b>	Khadzhybei	This proposed spelling is not used in the nomination dossier.  ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.
Page 2, column 2, line 5  Page 3, column 2, line 25  Page 4, column 1, line 49  Page 12, column 1, line 41	<b>Potemkin Stairs</b>	Prymorsky Stairs (Giants or (Potyomkin Stairs)	In the nomination dossier the name ‘Potemkin Stairs’ is the most used. ‘Prymorsky Stairs’ or ‘Giants Stairs’ are also used, but the name ‘Potyomkin Stairs’ is not used at all.  ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.
Page 1, column 2, line 34	Although a settlement existed on the site in ancient times, and in the 14th century a Turkish fortress of <b>Khadzhibey</b> was established there, the <b>present city was founded in 1794 by a strategic decision of the Empress Catherine II</b> to build a warm-water port named Odesa.	Although a settlement existed on the site in ancient times, and in the 14th century a Turkish fortress of Khadzhybei was established there, the present architectural and planning structure of the city has been developed since 1794 by a decision to build a warm-water port named Odesa.	1. “ <i>Khadzhybei</i> ”:  This proposed spelling is not used in the nomination dossier.  ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.  2. “ <i>the present architectural and planning structure of the city has been developed since 1794 by a decision to build a warm-water port named Odesa</i> ”:  ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which modifies the meaning of the sentence.
Page 2, column 1, line 1	In 1819, <b>during the Count Alexandre-Louis Andrault de Langeron’s administration</b> , a new master plan was developed by architect François Shalem.	In 1819 a new master plan was developed by architect François Shalem.	The proposed correction refers to historical facts.  Nevertheless, ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not modify the meaning of the paragraph.

Page 2, column 1, line 21	Odesa became <b>Russia's</b> second most important port, after Saint Petersburg.	Odesa became Empire's second most important port.	ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not modify the meaning of the sentence.
Page 2, column 1, line 43	After the war, it rebuilt its status by becoming one of the largest ports in the USSR, and since 1991, of <b>free</b> Ukraine.	After the war, it rebuilt its status by becoming one of the largest ports in the USSR, and since 1991, of independent Ukraine.	ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not modify the meaning of the sentence.
Page 2, column 2, line 46  Page 3, column 1, line 32  Page 3, column 1, line 37  Page 3, column 2, line 22  Page 9, column 1, line 11  Page 9, column 1, line 23  Page 11, column 1, line 37  Page 11, column 1, line 17	[...] the recent <b>conflict</b> , [...]	[...] the recent full-scale invasion, [...]	ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not reflect the information provided at earlier stages in the nomination dossier.
Page 4, column 1, line 6	It represents a unique example of a city <b>founded</b> in the late 18th century on the north-western shore of the Black Sea [...]	It represents a unique example of a city pushed to grow rapidly in the late 18th century on the north-western shore of the Black Sea [...]	ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which modifies the meaning of the sentence.
Page 12, column 1, line 9	<b>The city was founded in 1794 by a strategic decision of the Empress Catherine II</b> to build a warm-water port following the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792.  The new <b>city</b> , built on the site of a Turkish fortress, was initially planned by a military engineer and then expanded further during the 19th century.	The city in its architectural and planning structure that is nominated has been developed since 1794 at the site of Kotsubiiv (Khadzhybei) settlement by a decision to set up a warm-water port following the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792.  The new city structure, built on the site of a Turkish fortress, was initially planned by a military engineer and then expanded further during the 19th century.	ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which modifies the meaning of the sentence.
Page 13, column 2, line 36	ICOMOS further recommends that the name of the property be changed to: <b>“The Historic Centre of Odesa”</b> .	The State Party approves the recommendation of ICOMOS to exclude the industrial part of the port from the core zone and include it to the buffer zone of the property. Still, the State Party considers relevant not to change the name of the property.	ICOMOS considers that it is not a factual error.

		<p>The port is a fundamental element to understand the value of the city, and closely linked to its historical and functional integrity.</p> <p>From the earliest mention of the settlement of Khadzhybei and then the city of Odesa until today, the basis of life for people in this place has been maritime trade. The whole story of the city comes through the port, and it was precisely the building of a big port in the described period of time that had promoted the very fast growth of the city.</p> <p>The current port develops following the conformation of the first plan, even if the needs due to trade have changed the structures over time.</p> <p>On the territory of the port there are also several monuments of architecture, which are indicated in the dossier.</p> <p>Under Russia’s full-scale invasion on the territory of Ukraine, it is crucial to keep the name of the property as “<b>The historic center of the port city of Odesa</b>”. If the occupiers destroy Odesa’s port, the life of the entire city with its unique culture, which is described in the nomination dossier, could perish.</p>	
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## FORM FOR THE SUBMISSION OF FACTUAL ERRORS IN THE ADVISORY BODIES EVALUATIONS

(in compliance with Paragraph 150 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

**STATE(S) PARTY(IES): Yemen**

**EVALUATION OF THE NOMINATION OF THE SITE:** Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba in Marib Governorate

**RELEVANT ADVISORY BODY'S EVALUATION: ICOMOS**

Page, column, line of the Advisory Body Evaluation	Sentence including the factual error (the factual error should be highlighted in bold)	Proposed correction by the State Party	Comment (if any) by the Advisory Body and/or the World Heritage Centre
Page 2, left column, lines 29-30	The Ḥarūnum temple was converted into a mosque in the <b>4<sup>th</sup> century CE</b> .	The Ḥarūnum temple was converted into a mosque in the <b>4<sup>th</sup> century AH (9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century CE)</b> .	ICOMOS accepts this correction as a factual error.
Page 2, left column, lines 38-41	<b>Fragments of city's finely dressed stone walls, pierced with arched windows decorated with basalt, are still standing, including a circular tower, and also the pillars of the Ḥarūnum temple.</b>	<b>On the above ground of the Ancient City of Ma'rib very little is preserved of the city wall.</b>	ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.
Page 2, right column, line 16-19	The Awām temple is notable for its fine stone friezes with ibex head motifs, false windows in the hall of the column lobby, unmatched in other temples in Yemen, and inscriptions of carved stones, metal, <b>or black and pink ink.</b>	The Awām temple is notable for its fine stone friezes with ibex head motifs, false windows in the hall of the column lobby, unmatched in other temples in Yemen, and inscriptions of carved stones and metal. <del>or black and pink ink</del>	ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification, but notes that the ICOMOS sentence is based on the information provided on p.25 of the nomination dossier.
Page 2, right column, lines 20-22	An asphalt road cuts across the oasis <b>someone hundred kilometres</b> to the north of the temple and urban sprawl is said to be heading towards it.	An asphalt road cuts across the oasis <b>some one hundred metres</b> to the <b>northwest</b> of the temple and urban sprawl is said to be heading towards it.	1. 'some one hundred': ICOMOS acknowledges this typing error. 2. 'northwest': ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification, but notes that the ICOMOS sentence is based on the information provided on p.25 of the nomination dossier.
Page 2, right column, lines 26-29	Erected in the 1 <sup>st</sup> millennium BCE, with large limestone and alabaster blocks with some walls still standing up to three metres in height, it functioned as an important pilgrimage destination until about the <b>6<sup>th</sup> century CE</b> .	Erected in the 1 <sup>st</sup> millennium BCE, with large limestone and alabaster blocks with some walls still standing up to three metres in height, it functioned as an important pilgrimage destination until about the <b>4<sup>th</sup> century CE</b> .	ICOMOS accepts this correction as a factual error.



Page 3, left column, lines 6-8	Further north, <b>twenty-seven kilometres</b> away from the northern bank, remains of the Al-Jufaynah dam are preserved.	<i>There was a mistake in the nomination dossier:</i> Further north, <b>around 2.7 kilometres</b> away from the northern bank, remains of the Al-Jufaynah dam are preserved.	ICOMOS accepts this correction as a factual error.
Page 3, right column, lines 25-29	By the <b>5<sup>th</sup> century BCE</b> Saba was ruling a federation of neighbouring States – Ma'in, Qataban, Ausan and Hadramaut – maintaining its hegemony over 600 years and extending its influence to Najran in the north and crossing the Red Sea to Ethiopia.	By the <b>8<sup>th</sup> century BCE</b> Saba was ruling a federation of neighbouring States – Ma'in, Qataban, Ausan and Hadramaut – maintaining its hegemony over 600 years and extending its influence to Najran in the north and crossing the Red Sea to Ethiopia.	ICOMOS accepts this correction as a factual error.
Page 11, right column, lines 39-42	The Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba represents a period of the South Arabian history from the 1 <sup>st</sup> millennium BCE until the arrival of Islam to the region <b>in 630 CE, ...</b>	The Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba represents a period of the South Arabian history from the 1 <sup>st</sup> millennium BCE until the arrival of Islam to the region <b>around 630 CE, ...</b>	ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.
Page 12, left column, lines 8-15	The walled capital city Ma'rib, was the administrative, cultural and economic centre of the Kingdom of Saba, while the fortified city of Sirwah, some forty kilometres to the west, may have acted as its <b>military capital</b> . The monumental <b>colonnaded sanctuaries</b> in the temples of Harūnum, Awām and Bar'ān were linked by a processional pilgrimage route, which attracted adherents from across the Arabian Peninsula.	The walled capital city Ma'rib, was the administrative, cultural and economic centre of the Kingdom of Saba, while the fortified city of Sirwah, some forty kilometres to the west, may have acted as its <b>religious centre</b> . The monumental <b>sanctuaries with propyla</b> in the temples of Harūnum, Awām and Bar'ān were linked by a processional pilgrimage route, which attracted adherents from across the Arabian Peninsula.	1. ' <i>religious centre</i> ': ICOMOS considers that this correction provides information that contradicts information provided on p.42, p.45, p.54, p.55, and p.57 of the nomination dossier.  2. ' <i>sanctuaries with propyla</i> ': ICOMOS considers this correction to be an editorial change which does not modify the meaning of the sentence.
Page 12, left column, lines 45-51	Flourishing within the semi-arid landscape of valleys, mountains and deserts of South Arabia thanks to a highly advanced irrigation system, the kingdom played a key influential role among neighbouring realms and in the wider network of cultural exchanges at a time when trade routes linked South Arabia with the Mediterranean and <b>North</b> Africa.	Flourishing within the semi-arid landscape of valleys, mountains and deserts of South Arabia thanks to a highly advanced irrigation system, the kingdom played a key influential role among neighbouring realms and in the wider network of cultural exchanges at a time when trade routes linked South Arabia with the Mediterranean and <b>East</b> Africa.	ICOMOS accepts this correction as a factual error.
Page 6, left column, lines 26-31	But, as no inventory nor map showing the distribution and categories of Sabaeen sites in the Ma'rib area or around Sirwah apart from those in the nominated property has been provided, it is not possible to evaluate whether the boundaries encompass all the sites or areas that include attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.	<i>Clarification:</i> The most prominent attributes are all included in the nominated property. There are few remains of other Sabaeen sites and settlements, but they are not comparable with the selected landmarks.	In the absence of a technical evaluation mission, this information has not been fully evaluated.

Page 7, left column, lines 13-19	The revised boundaries of the component sites have been defined based on the extent of archaeological remains and consider in some instances the unexcavated areas where archaeological material is to be expected. The full extent of these archaeologically rich areas has not been provided; neither was an		
	inventory or map showing the distribution of Sabaean sites in the Ma'rib area or around Sirwah.		
Page 6, left column, lines 31-34	It is further not known where the findings from excavations and archaeological surveys performed on the sites are stored and in what condition they are.	<i>Clarification:</i> The small finds were entered in large archive books by the Yemeni commissioners during the excavations and surveys.	ICOMOS considers that this clarification contains new information.
Page 7, right column, lines 48-52	ICOMOS notes that it is not known whether there exists an inventory of all the artefacts uncovered at the component sites, and where these are being currently stored; no information has been provided on their conditions either.	For the excavations by the German Archaeological Institute an inventory is available in the form of databases (in German language). The findings excavated in Sirwah were stored in a storage building close to the excavation site. This building was plundered due to the unrest. At the moment, GOAM tries to check the missing pieces with the help of the German documentation. The finds from the Ma'rib excavations and surveys were brought to the Governor's palace in Ma'rib and are still there.	
Page 7, left column, lines 37-42	It is also unclear whether the land included within the nominated property is state- or privately- owned. ICOMOS considers that the legal authority within the boundaries of the nominated property is unclear, given that the perimeter has been changed during the evaluation process.	<i>Clarification:</i> The land included within the nominated property is mixed state- and privately- owned.	ICOMOS considers that this clarification contains new information.

Page 7, left column, lines 46-50	ICOMOS notes that the processional road of the sacred pilgrimage that linked the ancient city of Ma'rib and the Awām temple is not included within the boundaries of the nominated property, nor is it fully enclosed within the buffer zones of component parts 1 and 2.	<i>Clarification:</i> The processional road is mentioned in inscriptions. During GPR surveys conducted by local experts some traces of a potential paved road were detected. The physical evidence, the layout of the road and the current state of knowledge have been judged insufficient to justify the delimitation of the processional road and its inclusion in the boundary of the nominated property.	ICOMOS acknowledges this clarification.
Page 6, left column, lines 46-53	The proposed individual buffer zones do not protect fully the visual integrity of the landscape of the Ma'rib Oasis. The larger buffer zone B is in this case a better solution, as it protects visual associations between the component parts and includes the wadis and farmland areas that were part of the irrigation and sustainable land-use system. However, the rationale for creating two buffer zones is not clear.	<i>Clarification:</i> Due to the emergency situation, a two-level buffer zones has been proposed, as a flexible approach which may allow adjustments when protection measures can be planned on site. Buffer zone A is meant to provide strict measures to protect the setting of the archaeological "landmarks", while buffer zone B would provide an additional layer of protection to safeguard visual associations between them but also the oasis as an ancient agricultural/irrigation system mentioned by historical texts, among which the Qu'ran (Sura 34). [See sketch of the oasis in the nomination dossier, vol. 2, p. 11]. As explained in the "Additional Information" submitted on 28/03/2022, the proposal of new boundaries was also meant to adopt	ICOMOS considers that this clarification contains new information.
Page 7, left column, lines 42-45	It is further not known what restrictions apply in the buffer zones of each component part and in the buffer zone B; the rationale for establishing two types of buffer zones is unclear.	ICOMOS' recommendation (Letter: Our Ref. GB/TA/1700_Add.In, of 28/02/2022) to have a more generous buffer zone to encompass the " <i>the wider setting of the property when the importance of the wider archaeological landscape is acknowledged as is its vulnerability to intense pressure from development.</i> " Since it was not possible to check the feasibility of adopting such a unique large buffer zone (taking into account ownership and management issues) within the tight deadline, a double level has been proposed.	
Page 7, right column, lines 4-11	ICOMOS also notes that the visual connections between the component parts located in the Ma'rib Oasis, which were all part of one administrative system of the capital city of Ma'rib, are not fully protected within the individual buffer zones. Only the buffer zone B protects these visual associations; the latter also includes the wadis and farmland areas that were part of the irrigation and sustainable land-use system.		

Page 7, left column, lines 2-6	Also of concern is the demolishing of post-Sabaeen vernacular architecture in the ancient cities of Ma'rib and Sirwah, which reflects the traditions that link the pre-Islamic Sabaeen culture with the cultures that developed in the area after the arrival of Islam.	<i>Unclear:</i> It is not clear which post-Sabaeen houses being demolished are referred to.	ICOMOS considers that this is not a comment related to factual errors, but a question.  The ICOMOS sentence refers, in the case of Sirwah, to the post-Sabaeen buildings on the site of the Awal temple that were demolished during archaeological campaigns.
Page 8, left column, lines 46-50	ICOMOS notes that no state of conservation reports have been prepared since 2009. And some of the past conservation and restoration works have been executed in a rather insensitive way, which would need to be addressed in the long term.	<i>Unclear:</i> It is not clear which restoration works executed in a "rather insensitive way" are referred to.	ICOMOS considers that this is not a comment related to factual errors, but a question.  The ICOMOS sentence is based on the photographs provided in the nomination dossier.
Page 9, left column, lines 12-15	It is not clear whether there exist management plans for the individual component parts. The management measures for the buffer zones (including buffer zone B) have not been provided either.	<i>Clarification:</i> There are no management plans for either the entire property or individual components. The emergency situation at the time of preparation of the nomination dossier did not facilitate the site visits and work with stakeholders, which are necessary to define management measures.	ICOMOS considers that this clarification contains new information.
Page 12, right column, lines 27-31	The management measures for the buffer zones, including buffer zone B, have not been provided.		
Page 9, left column, lines 20-23	There are, however, no timeframe for the implementation of the proposed plan of action and no indication on how it would be carried out in practice given the precarious political situation.	<i>Clarification:</i> The <i>Conservation and Management Guidelines</i> are not supposed to replace the management plan. They are meant to provide a guiding framework and to recommend policies and actions for the future management planning.	ICOMOS considers that the corrections re-iterate information put forward in the nomination dossier.  The ICOMOS sentence is based on the information provided on p.41 of the Annexes.
Page 12, right column, lines 42-49	At present, there is no management plan for the property in place. <i>Conservation and Management Guidelines</i> have been developed to guide future management and protection of the component parts. But it is unclear how the proposed plan of action will be implemented given the precarious political situation.		