

Property Name	Country	-Identification No.
Old city of Sana'a	Republic of Yemen	C 385

STATE PARTY REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF OLD CITY OF SANA'A, YEMEN –
INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN DANGER

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN - MINISTRY OF CULTURE - GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CITIES, YEMEN (GOPHCY). JANUARY 2022.

(Beijing ,2020) CONCERNING THE HISTORIC Old City Of Sanaa

Decision: 44 COM 7A.26

THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE,

1. HAVING EXAMINED DOCUMENT WHC/21/44.COM/7A.ADD,
2. RECALLING DECISION 43 COM 7A.39, ADOPTED AT ITS 43RD SESSION (BAKU, 2019),
3. COMMENDS THE EFFORTS OF LOCAL ACTORS AND OTHER PARTIES IN THE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN CAPACITY BUILDING, AWARENESS RAISING, DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, DOCUMENTATION AND EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS AT THE PROPERTY, AND REQUESTS THAT THEY CONTINUE IN CONSULTATION WITH UNESCO AND THE ADVISORY BODIES, TO PRIORITISE URGENT STABILIZATION ACTIONS, AND TO RESTORE DAMAGED BUILDINGS, BASED ON SURVEYS AND DOCUMENTATION, USING TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS, IN ORDER TO AVOID INCREMENTALLY AFFECTING THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV) OF THE PROPERTY;
4. WELCOMES THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'CASH FOR WORK: PROMOTING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR URBAN YOUTH IN YEMEN' AND ENCOURAGES THE CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH THE UNESCO DOHA OFFICE TO CONTINUE ITS IMPLEMENTATION;
5. EXPRESSES ITS CONTINUING CONCERN THAT THE OLD CITY OF SANA'A HAS INCURRED IRREVERSIBLE DESTRUCTION AND CONTINUES TO BE VULNERABLE, OWING TO THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION, ONGOING SOCIAL CHANGE AND CONTINUING LIMITED SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR BOTH HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND PHYSICAL CONSERVATION;
6. RECALLS THE OBLIGATION TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON MAJOR PROJECTS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE, IN COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 172 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, FOR REVIEW BY THE ADVISORY BODIES, AND ALSO REQUESTS THAT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE REGARDING THE GREAT MOSQUE OF SANA'A AND AL-NAHAREEN MOSQUE, INCLUDING ANY FUTURE PLANS;
7. FURTHER REQUESTS THE STATE PARTY TO REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORIC CITIES, SITES AND MONUMENTS 2016 – 2020, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF YEMEN'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, ADOPTED AT THE UNESCO EXPERT MEETING IN JULY 2015;
8. ALSO ENCOURAGES THE STATE PARTY TO ELABORATE PROPOSALS FOR A BOUNDARY CLARIFICATION AND A MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE UNESCO DOHA OFFICE, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE AND THE ADVISORY BODIES, TO BE SUBMITTED IN LINE WITH PARAGRAPH 164 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES;

9. REITERATES THE NEED FOR A JOINT WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE/ICOMOS REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION TO ADVISE ON REPAIR AND CONSERVATION WORKS, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO DETERMINING THE DESIRED STATE OF CONSERVATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER (DSOCR), AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SET OF CORRECTIVE MEASURES AND A TIMEFRAME FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, AS SOON AS THE SECURITY SITUATION IN YEMEN ALLOWS;
10. CONTINUES TO URGE ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FURTHER ACTION THAT WOULD CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF YEMEN AND THE OUV OF THE PROPERTY AND TO FULFIL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, IN PARTICULAR THE 1954 HAGUE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT, BY TAKING ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO PROTECT SUCH HERITAGE, ESPECIALLY SITES ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THOSE INCLUDED IN THE TENTATIVE LIST OF YEMEN, AND APPEALS TO ALL STATES PARTIES TO COOPERATE IN THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING ARMED CONFLICT AS PER THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2347;
11. FURTHER ENCOURAGES THE STATE PARTY TO CONSIDER RATIFYING THE SECOND PROTOCOL (1999) OF THE 1954 HAGUE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT;
12. REITERATES ITS PREVIOUS CALLS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE UNESCO HERITAGE EMERGENCY FUND, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF YEMEN'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, ADOPTED AT THE UNESCO EXPERT MEETING IN JULY 2015, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND FIRST-AID RESTORATION AND PROTECTION MEASURES;
13. REQUESTS FURTHERMORE THE STATE PARTY TO SUBMIT TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE, BY 1 FEBRUARY 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 45TH SESSION;
14. DECIDES TO RETAIN OLD CITY OF SANA'A (YEMEN) ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER.

1 / Summary of the report

The Old Sana'a City, as a world heritage site in danger, still faces many challenges and threats, whether threats from the conflict in Yemen or those caused by natural factors. There are some efforts by the State party through its representative (GOPHCY) with local and international conservation partners to implement qualitative projects to preserve the exceptional value of cultural property in The city of Old Sana'a in consultation with UNESCO Doha, but the results of the field survey warn of dangers to come as there are approximately 380 historic buildings threatened to fall. Although local and international partners are working to save 120 buildings from 2/2022 to 7/2022 through the cash for work Project, UNESCO, the World Heritage Center and the international community are urged to continue supporting Sana'a. The representative of the State party (GOPHCY) commends UNESCO Doha's active role in supporting the property, also thanks the (EU) for its response through the Cash for work project and commends the role of local

government and private sector partners for their contribution to support the restoration of Number of damaged buildings. It states that a number of projects were implemented through cash for work, such as the project to save 42 historic buildings and restore the damaged parts of the eastern wall of the Old City as well as the project of counting damage and a number of training workshops, the latest of which was the workshop of managing cultural heritage sites during disasters and conflicts that targeted most of the concerned authorities to preserve with the involvement of civil defense in this workshop. 46 trainees and museum managers were trained in most governorates of the Republic, and some emergency projects were carried out with the funding of the UNESCO Emergency Fund, such as securing 27 buildings in al-Qasimi neighborhood and securing 22 historic buildings from flood west of liquid. These projects encouraged local partners to support the Old City through two projects funded by the Secretariat of the capital Sana'a in which roofs and walls were secured for 57 buildings and another project financed by a local company for 30 buildings. GOPHCY stresses that the concerns of the World Heritage Center are correct, the city is still threatened by many dangers, the most important of which is the ongoing war, not to mention that there are 380 buildings threatened with collapse and the rainy season on the doors in addition to the collapse of the sewage system of the Old City, the collapse of parts of the city's dirt wall due to rain and lack of maintenance resources and (GOPHCY) commits to providing information to the World Heritage Center on large projects and confirms the failure to implement any interventions in the Grant Mosque in Sana'a. Work is suspended at the **Nahrin Mosque** to make archaeological sensors and the plans are still not available, as a joint committee of competent authorities has been set up to review them and GOPHCY will provide the World Heritage Committee with a copy as soon as it receives the plans. GOPHCY states that there is no progress in the national strategy for the preservation of Yemen's heritage as it was implemented in 2016 and there have been political and economic variables that have prevented its implementation, and emphasizes the need to modernize and implement that strategy in the coming years. GOPHCY also urges the World Heritage Center and UNESCO to appeal to the community to support the 2015 emergency plan by the World Heritage Committee, as it has only responded to the EU through the Cash for work Project, and GOPHCY stresses that there will be no adjustment to the city's borders, and does not prefer to modify the borders at the moment as it could be counterproductive during the war, and calls on UNESCO to fund the old-fashioned conservation scheme as well as the fever scheme during the next phase. GOPHCY also asks UNESCO to baptize the attached map and the columns from the competent authorities in Sana'a to be a legal document that can face the offending construction in the white lands and the protection of the city, and commends UNESCO Doha for its continued support to the city through projects, rehabilitation programs, training, workshops and field inventory because these projects contributed to the restoration of GOPHCY to exercise its role after suffering from stagnation due to lack of resources and the scarcity of potential. It also thanks the Regional Center in Bahrain for its continued communication and the provision of a number of rehabilitation and training programs to its employees as well as its support for the National Register of Cultural Heritage project of Yemen Section I and urges it to continue the project

because of its importance in protecting cultural property in Yemen. It also asked the World Heritage Center to urge other relevant organizations and advisory bodies such as ALPH and ICROOM and others to direct part of their support to Old Sana'a through site managers and other actual workers in the city.

GOPHCY also attached to this report a summary of the conservation status of the Old City during 2021,2020.