

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

> Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

World Heritage

AMENDMENT

Item of the Agenda	7B
Draft Decision	45COM 7B.57
Amendment submitted by the Delegation of	OMAN
Date	06/09/2023
TEXT	

Draft Decision: 45COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **39 COM 8B.32**, **41 COM 7B.50**, **43 COM 7B.90** and **44 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its extended 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku,2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,

3. <u>Expresses its solidarity</u> with the State Party of Türkiye and its people for the devastating effects of the earthquakes that took place in February 2023, <u>assures</u> the State Party of the availability of the Convention assistance mechanism to support affected World Heritage properties and <u>invites</u> the State Party to call upon them;

4. <u>Welcomes</u> the facilitation by the State Party of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as requested in its previous decisions, <u>notes</u> and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in its report, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to <u>fully</u> implement them; as appropriate.

5. <u>Expresses its appreciation</u> to the State Party for the exemplary research and restoration approach to the works on the City Walls in recent years;

6. <u>Expresses its</u> <u>deep</u> concern</u> that the State Party has not halted all projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and has not reverted to the 2012 Conservation Plan, as repeatedly requested by the Committee, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to:

a) Halt all projects that could affect the OUV of the property, including further demolitions and developments in its buffer zone,

b) Halt the continued implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan and to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan;

7. <u>Also expresses its-deep</u> concern about the changes brought about by the implementation of projects in the property and its buffer zone since its inscription, which have severely eroded its OUV, in particular:

a) In the functioning and morphology of the Hevsel Gardens, an integral part of the property and an essential attribute underpinning the property's OUV,

b) The implementation of construction, landscaping and infrastructural projects in immediate setting of the Ten-Eyed Bridge and the Tigris riverbanks, both within the property and its buffer zone,

c) The large-scale demolition and destruction as a result of the incidents that started in the neighbourhoods in the south-eastern part of Suriçi (buffer zone) and continued between 2015- 16 reconstruction or conversion of urban neighbourhoods in the property and its buffer zone, which has also led to a virtual destruction of the social relationship of the traditional local communities with the Hevsel Gardens and despite this being a fundamental relationship that contributed to the visual integrity of the world heritage property OUV at the time of inscription,

d) The construction of the Vehicle Road and Touristic Tour Route around the inner periphery of the City Walls,

e) The occasional inappropriate and invasive restoration on the monuments;

8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to:

a) Carry out independent Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design, landscape and infrastructural projects, as well as construction and restoration projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property and its setting, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context,

b) Ensure that all projects are guided by suitable professional archaeological and conservation oversight, which should be fully integrated into all works to ensure good practice and effective outcomes,

c) Submit details of such projects and the associated HIAs to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decision on their implementation which may be difficult to reverse;

9. <u>Notes with great concern</u> that the Management Plan for the property is still not fully implemented and has resulted in a range of disparate projects, some of which have and continue to undermine the OUV of the property and <u>urges</u> the State Party to:

a) Fully review the management system of the property,

b) Examine whether current legislation and management regulations can effectively protect the property and its buffer zone,

c) Revise the Management Plan and increase the role of the site manager beyond the coordination level while ensuringe the participation of local authorities, organisations and communities, including scientists and agricultural groups, in the management and decision-making processes,

d) Submit the revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;

10. <u>Considers</u> that the property faces significant cumulative ascertained and potential threats, in particular due to a significant loss of integrity and cultural significance as well as a severe loss of the supporting historic urban fabric and a management system which has failed to maintain the attributes that convey its OUV;

11. <u>Decides to inscribe the Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural</u> Landscape (Türkiye) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

12. <u>Requests moreover</u> the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as well as a set of corrective measures, informed by the 2022 mission, including a timetable for implementation, to reverse the interventions on the property and its buffer zone and help mitigate the negative impacts that have resulted from development projects implemented since inscription, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session;

13. 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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-, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.