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World Heritage Convention

45COM

AMENDMENT/PROPOSAL

Agenda Item	State of conservation of World Heritage properties
Draft Decision	45 COM 7B.179
Submitted by the Delegation of....	Japan
Co-author(s) (if any)	
Date of submission	13 September 2023

TEXT

Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) (C 217)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.179

The World Heritage Committee,

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

*2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.154**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*

*3. Takes note of the **limited** progress made by the State Party in addressing the Committee's previous decisions and the mission's recommendations, but notes with concern that **some key urgent** issues continue to remain unresolved;*

*4. Notes with **utmost** concern that the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission confirmed the findings of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission that **some of** the attributes underlying*

the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have deteriorated, ~~and, in some respects eroded beyond recovery;~~

5. Also notes ~~with great concern~~ that important ~~and long overdue~~ actions to establish a spatial planning ~~and management~~ framework and instruments, essential for adequate protection and management of the property, are ~~far from~~ being implemented and ~~encourages the State Party to finalize that no timeframe for the finalisation of the key instruments, including the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), in 18 months has been set;~~

6. ~~Also encourages the State Party to invite series of consultative missions of UNESCO's advisory bodies in order to assist the CMP elaboration.~~

7. Further notes with great concern that the Integrated Development Plan for Nessebar Municipality 2021-2027, adopted in August 2021, proposes a vision for the future of Nessebar revolving around the tourism mono-economy, with actions that may locally improve spatial qualities of the property but have greater potential to exacerbate current threats and further erode the attributes of OUV, and urges the State Party to revise the Plan in the light of an OUV-based vision and strategy for the future of Nessebar that does not focus only on tourism;

~~7. Regrets that the State Party has not complied with all Committee's requests contained in Decision 44 COM 7B.154, and, taking into account also previous Committee's decisions 41 COM 7B.43 and 43 COM 7B.81, considers that the property is faced with State of conservation of properties WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2, p. 154 inscribed on the World Heritage List both ascertained and potential threats in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;~~

~~8. Decides to inscribe the Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;~~

8. Strongly reiterates its urgent requests to the State Party to:

a) Devise a vision for the future of the "Ancient City of Nessebar" based on its OUV, which pursues sustainable, compatible and equitable development of the property within the larger municipal territory and is not solely focused on tourism,

b) Develop, approve and implement the CMP for the property, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the safeguarding and recovery of the attributes of OUV, while harnessing the participation of the local community and civil society and building on the principles of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) and the ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism (2022); establish mechanisms to guarantee that the CMP objectives, strategies and actions are taken into due account in all other spatial or development plans under preparation or already adopted,

c) ~~Develop,~~ approve and enforce the General Development Master Plan for Nessebar Municipality and ~~consequently~~ the Detailed Development Plan for the Ancient City of Nessebar, with all necessary support from the national authorities and incorporating all relevant Committee's and missions' recommendations,

d) Guarantee that the protection regimes for the property are known and respected by all stakeholders;

~~109.~~ Further requests the State Party to implement **fully** the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission as well as previous recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, where appropriate that remain unfulfilled;

~~11.~~ Also requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for examination by the Committee at its 46th session;

~~1210.~~ Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December February 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the Conservation and Management Plan, including the heritage under water, Detailed Development Plan and the General Development Master Plan the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47 46th session in 2025 with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.