

## **Report on the State of Conservation of the World Heritage property**

### **Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Poland, C 1165)**

#### **1. Executive Summary**

This report is a response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee no. 45 COM 7B.194, adopted in September 2023 at the 45th Extended Session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It presents the current state of conservation of the World Heritage property Centennial Hall in Wrocław and its surroundings and covers the period from the time of its adoption until the end of December 2023.

The State Party is working on updating the management plan for Centennial Hall and will make efforts in order to complete the plan update by the end of 2024.

Since the previous decision 36 COM 7B.80, the State Party has been in correspondence with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS International, which has included a series of detailed information regarding the state of conservation and protection of the World Heritage property Centennial Hall in Wrocław. During this correspondence, all planned and ongoing activities were described.

The State Party, being fully aware of the lack of impact of the Grand Island Avenue project on the World Heritage Site, was unable to organise an expected meeting with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. However the relevant explanations, full documentation as well as ICOMOS Technical Reviews were provided in the following years along with an attempt at dialogue with the complaining organization.

*The Development and management master plan of the Centennial Hall and its buffer zone* was sent to the World Heritage Centre as an appendix to the 2014 report on the state of conservation of Centennial Hall in Wrocław. It illustrates the current status of land use and main functions (the purpose for which the individual areas are used) in the entire area of the property and the buffer zone. The city's spatial policy described in this document has been consistently implemented over the years with regard to the protection of the World Heritage site and its Outstanding Universal Value, through provisions in local spatial development plans, which are local law documents.

The State Party has extended an invitation for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission.

## **2. Response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee**

This report is a response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee no. 45 COM 7B.194, adopted in September 2023 at the 45th Extended Session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It presents the current state of conservation of the World Heritage property Centennial Hall in Wrocław and its surroundings and covers the period from the time of its adoption until the end of December 2023.

In its decision 45 COM 7B.194, the World Heritage Committee:

**Re. 3.** *Takes note of the establishment of the Team for Monitoring the Preparation of Management Plans for World Heritage properties in Poland and requests the State Party to provide information on the progress made in updating the 2016 Management Plan for the property;*

The State Party is working on an updated management plan for Centennial Hall and will make efforts in order to complete the updated plan and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre by the end of 2024.

**Re. 4.** *Notes with concern that the State Party did not comply with the requirements of paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and has not provided to the World Heritage Centre timely information about large-scale projects which have now been completed or are in an advanced stage of development that may have the potential to negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*

The State Party makes every effort to maintain the World Heritage property in the best possible state and already at the State level analyses the potential impact of the proposed projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. All projects in the area are subject to review for compliance with provisions of the local development plans and the agreements with the conservation services.

The State Party would like to stress that since the previous decision of the World Heritage Committee No. 36 COM 7B.80 it has exchanged correspondence with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS International, which has included a series of detailed information regarding the state of conservation and protection of the World Heritage property Centennial Hall in Wrocław. During this time, two reports on the state of conservation of the WH property were prepared (in 2014, 2015), in addition, a range of information and other related documents were sent in response to enquiries from the World Heritage Centre as well as ICOMOS Technical Reviews (in 2013, 2018, 2020, 2022).

These focused on a number of main topics: the Great Island Avenue project (in conjunction with Wrocław's road infrastructure) and the maintenance of Szczytnicki Park, as well as investments already completed: within the WH property – at the Pavilion of the Four Domes and the underground car park, in the buffer zone – at the Africarium and the revitalisation of the WUWA residential area. In the course of this correspondence relating to decisions of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS Technical Reviews and responses to enquiries sent under para. 174 of the Operational Guidelines, all planned and ongoing activities were described.

**Re. 5.** *Regrets that the State Party did not harness the opportunity for a constructive dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS over the years to improve planned projects and reduce or mitigate potential impacts when there was still room for improvement;*

The State Party, being fully aware of the lack of impact on the World Heritage Site of the investment project, which consists of the construction of the Grand Island Avenue, at the same time did not have the possibility to organise an expected meeting with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. However, the relevant explanations, full documentation as well as ICOMOS Technical Reviews were provided in the following years along with an attempt at dialogue with the complaining organization.

**Re. 6.** *Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide an overall Development Plan for the property and its buffer zone that provides an understanding as to how all implemented and planned projects support the OUV of the property, and further requests that this plan be integrated into the updated Management Plan;*

The State Party would like to remind that the *Development and management master plan of the Centennial Hall and its buffer zone* was sent to the World Heritage Centre as Annexes 8a, 8b, 8c and 8d to the report on the state of conservation of Centennial Hall in Wrocław in 2014.

The *Development and management master plan of the Centennial Hall and its buffer zone*, as stated in the introduction, has been drawn up to provide a picture of the current spatial development status and the principal functions (the purpose for which the individual areas are used) of the entire complex. The boundaries of the development and management master plan are equivalent to those of the site's buffer zone. This document was prepared by Biuro Rozwoju Wrocławia (the Wrocław Development Office) in 2013. It should be noted that the local spatial development plans are the local law documents, while the *Development and management master plan* is an extract from the provisions of these documents. The city's spatial policy described in this document has been consistently implemented over the years with regard to the protection of the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value, in accordance with the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by decision No. 38. COM. 8E in 2014 at the 38. session of the World Heritage Committee.

**Re. 7.** *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the impacts of all completed and ongoing projects in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting on the attributes of its OUV, examine planned projects that may have an impact on the property and assess its overall state of conservation;*

The State Party has extended an invitation for a joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage Centre. The invitation letter proposed a date after 10 May 2024. The date coincides with the local government elections in Poland, the completion of the project and enables full assessment of its impact on the property, including its surroundings and the attributes of its outstanding universal value.

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

As of 6 January 2023, the Dolnośląski Regional Conservator of Monuments took over all competences within the municipality of Wrocław, resulting from the Act on the Protection and Care of Monuments. Thus, decisions concerning both objects inscribed to the register of monuments and local planning are now agreed by the State conservation service, which is intended to unify and structure conservation policy regarding the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

**4. In accordance with the provisions of section 172 of the Operational Guidelines, please describe any potential substantial renovation works, modifications and/or construction works**

**planned within the property, the buffer zone (buffer zones) and/or corridors or other areas, if such changes may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including its authenticity and integrity.**

Not identified.

**5. Public access to the Report on the state of conservation.**

The State Party hereby consents to the publication of the full version of the report on the World Heritage Centre website.

**6. Signature of the authority**