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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**

**Forty-sixth session
New Delhi, India
21 – 31 July 2024**

**Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda:
State of conservation of the properties inscribed
on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

Summary

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee. This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/46COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports will also be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

Note: For each section, the reports are presented in the English alphabetical order of States Parties.

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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

18. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1982-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

(cf. Document CLT 82/CH/CONF.015/8)

"[...] the situation of this property corresponds to the criteria mentioned in the ICOMOS note and, in particular, to criteria (e) (significant loss of historical authenticity) and (f) (important loss of cultural significance) as far as "ascertained danger" is concerned, and to criteria (a) (modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection), (b) (lack of conservation policy) and (d) (threatening effects of town planning) as far as "potential danger" is concerned. [...]"

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (in 1982)

Total amount approved: USD 100,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: approximately USD 5,000,000 (since 1988)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2004: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; from September 2005 to May 2008: 6 experts missions within the framework of the elaboration of the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem; February-March 2007: special World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission sent by the Director-General of UNESCO for the issue of the Mughrabi ascent; August 2007, January and February 2008: missions for the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism; March and December 2009: World Heritage Centre missions; December 2013, October 2014, February 2015 and June 2015: project missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- High impact research / monitoring activities
- Housing
- Natural risk factors
- Management systems/management plan; lack of planning, governance and management processes;
- Alteration of the urban and social fabric
- Impact of archaeological excavations

- Deterioration of monuments
- Urban environment and visual integrity
- Traffic, access and circulation; effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 May 2024, a joint report was provided to the World Heritage Centre by the States Parties of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine, which is available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/documents/>.

The report provides an update concerning the property, while recalling earlier incidents and information. It can be summarized as follows:

- A list of reported violations against Muslim holy places, including at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Christian holy places;
- Definitions of Muslim and Christian holy places, and the established 'Status Quo';
- Examples of violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and other Muslim holy places. This comprises issues such as those related to the Mughrabi Quarter and the Mughrabi Ascent, the obstruction of restoration and maintenance work, land confiscation, and construction projects. It also refers to excavations carried out around and under Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif from the western and southern sides;
- Several violations at Christian holy sites, including reported assaults, restrictions and appropriation of church properties, in addition to developments in the Armenian Quarter where confrontations have been reported due to a planned development project;
- Information regarding projects that are considered against the authentic character of heritage places, including developments at Al-Buraq/Western wall Plaza and the cable car project.

Since the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, the Secretariat received two letters from the Permanent Delegation of the State of Palestine to UNESCO, dated 30 June 2023 and 2 October 2023, reporting persistent violations and continuous violent attacks at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The letters referred to the respect of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Both letters also referred to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Secretariat also received a joint letter from the Permanent Delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of the State of Palestine to UNESCO on 11 March 2024 expressing concern about recent developments at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and reporting on the installation of a communications tower on the roof of Al-Tanzakiya school, which would have a visual impact to the site.

In addition, the Secretariat received a letter from the Chairperson of the Arab Group to UNESCO dated 14 December 2023, expressing concern regarding the project to build a cable car over the Old City of Jerusalem, and reported violation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols and the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The Secretariat followed up with Israel, State Party to the Convention, asking it to provide relevant information. With regard to the cable car project, the Secretariat reiterated the importance of having a Heritage Impact Assessment, in order to analyse effects and consequences of this project on the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity of the property in its setting. A reply has not been received yet.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having considered Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4 and the Annex attached to this decision,*
2. *Recalling its previous decisions concerning the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls,*
3. *Decides that the status of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decisions **45 COM 7A.31** and **45 COM 8C.2** of its last session.*

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ANNEX

The World Heritage Committee

46th session of the Committee (46 COM)

Item 18: Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4,*
2. *Recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,*
3. *Reaffirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the authenticity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),*
4. *Also reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,*
5. *Reminding that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of*

the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

6. Further recalling the 26 decisions of the Executive Board: 185 EX/Decision 14, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 5.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Decision 19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25, 201 EX/Decision 30, 202 EX/Decision 38, 204 EX/Decision 25, 205 EX/Decision 28, 206 EX/Decision 32, 207 EX/Decision 38, 209 EX/Decision 24, 210 EX/Decision 36, 211 EX/Decision 33, 212 EX/Decision 43, 214 EX/Decision 22, 215 EX/Decision 36, 216 EX/Decision 33, 217 EX/Decision 33 and 219 EX/Decision 22, and the 12 decisions World Heritage Committee decisions: **34 COM 7A.20, 35 COM 7A.22, 36 COM 7A.23, 37 COM 7A.26, 38 COM 7A.4, 39 COM 7A.27, 40 COM 7A.13, 41 COM 7A.36, 42 COM 7A.21, 43 COM 7A.22, 44 COM 7A.10 and 45 COM 7A.31,**
7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunnelling, works, projects, including the construction plan for a cable car, and other illegal practices in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
8. Also regrets the Israeli refusal to implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;
9. Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre, to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;
10. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

25. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine) (C 1565)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2017-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

The State Party outlined a series of threats in the nomination file, but none were specified by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Draft submitted by the State Party following expert meeting in Paris in December 2018, in accordance with Decision **42 COM 7A.28**. Currently under review.

Corrective measures identified

Draft submitted by the State Party following expert meeting in Paris in December 2018, in accordance with Decision **42 COM 7A.28**. Currently under review.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Currently under review, pending adoption of the corrective measures.

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2018)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 375,400 from the Government of Sweden for physical rehabilitation; USD 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of Statement of Outstanding Universal Value at the time of inscription
- Management systems/management plan: Need of a management plan (resolved)
- Damage from illegal actions including new construction and archaeological excavations
- Restricted access

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/documents/>, and presents the following information:

- Revised versions of the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), Desired state of conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and corrective measures with a provisional timeframe for their implementation, were developed in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Decision **42 COM 7A.28**, and are included as annexes to the report;
- Progress has been made with regard to the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) within the framework of International Assistance, with support from UNESCO and partners including the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and Hebron Municipality. The local community and other stakeholders were also involved in the process. Following the ICOMOS Technical Review of 2023 on the revised MCP, the State Party affirms its dedication to address them;
- Initiatives undertaken during 2023 include conservation works at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs; restoration of Zahdeh Historic House; restoration and adaptive re-use of the Al-Sharabati Building as a community centre; adaptive re-use of historic buildings for Government Headquarters; and rehabilitation of infrastructure at the Northern Entrance of the Old Town. Community living conditions and socio-economic well-being were improved, while ensuring the sustainability of conservation efforts and raising awareness within the local community regarding best practices for cultural heritage conservation. There are currently no other plans for significant restorations, alterations, or new construction within the property or its buffer zone. The State Party complies with the law for Tangible Cultural Heritage (No. 11, 2018), and is committed to conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) and/or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for significant projects. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee participated in the Fifth World Heritage Site Managers' Forum in Riyadh in September 2023;

- According to the report, the property remains vulnerable to violations, including construction of illegal Israeli settlements and archaeological excavations, as well as restricted access to places of worship, demolition of commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market, destruction of the arched and domed entrances at the historic bus station, and completed construction of an electric elevator in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, resulting in destruction of significant archaeological remains. In addition, the State Party reports that there has been a curfew imposed in the property since the commencement of the war in Gaza in October 2023.

In addition, UNESCO received several letters from the State Party and from the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee expressing deep concern about reported violations and reported seizing of the Al-Hisbeh market and planned new constructions, as well as developments at Tell Rumeida, located in the buffer zone of the property. The Secretariat followed up with Israel, requesting the relevant information. A reply has not been received yet.

The abovementioned concerns were also raised by third parties and brought to the attention of the World Heritage Center.

The State Party expressed its wish to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has submitted to the World Heritage Centre a revised proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), prepared in accordance with the process adopted in Decision **42 COM 7A.28**. Adoption of the SOUV by the Committee is required for the finalisation and consideration of the draft DSOCR and draft corrective measures that will guide the process for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The SOUV is also a fundamental foundation for the MCP, which should be adjusted once the SOUV is adopted, and in accordance with the recommendations of the 2023 ICOMOS Technical Review. Finalisation of the MCP should proceed in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies.

The efforts of the State Party to undertake activities for the conservation and management of the property, including conservation works at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, restoration of Zahdeh Historic House, adaptive re-use of the Al-Sharabati Building as a community centre, adaptive re-use of historic buildings, and rehabilitation of infrastructure at the Northern Entrance of the Old Town, as well as initiatives for socio-economic benefits and awareness-raising for the local community, should be commended. Participation of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in the fifth edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum in Riyadh in September 2023 is welcome, and the State Party should be encouraged to continue to build capacity and foster cooperation and support through ongoing engagement with UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies and other World Heritage property managers.

The Tangible Cultural Heritage Law and requirements for HIAs and EIAs for major restoration projects have previously been noted by the Committee. The scale and extent of reported illegal activities, and in particular the reported construction of settlements, archaeological excavations, demolition of commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market, destruction of the arched and domed entrances at the historic bus station and completion of an electric elevator at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, which proceeded without preparation of HIAs or notification to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines represent potential threats to the OUV of the property. In accordance with the Operational Guidelines, details of any significant conservation and development project, including HIAs, prepared in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

All parties should continue to avoid any action that would cause damage to the property and its OUV, and all possible measures should be taken to protect the property, in particular to refrain from physical damage, prevention of conservation projects, and inappropriate new development projects within the property and its buffer zone.

It is recommended that the property remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4 and the Annex attached to this decision,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.28**, **43 COM 7A.29**, **44 COM 7A.16** and **45 COM 7A.38**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Decides that the status of **Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town** relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decision **41 COM 8B.1** of the World Heritage Committee.*

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ANNEX

The World Heritage Committee

46th session of the Committee (46 COM)

Item 25. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having considered Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.1** adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), which did not include a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), and noting that in compliance with Paragraph 154 of the Operational Guidelines, when deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, guided by the Advisory Bodies, the Committee adopts a SOUV for the property,*
3. *Taking note of a further-revised draft SOUV contained in the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party,*
4. *Takes note of the consultations held between experts from UNESCO, the State Party and the Advisory Bodies, as well as the ongoing exchanges with regard to the revised draft SOUV, the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the related corrective measures, and invites the State Party to continue its efforts to finalise the above documents;*
5. *Decides to consider the examination of a draft SOUV for the property at its 47th session;*
6. *Also takes note of the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for the property and requests that once the SOUV for the property is adopted and the DSOCR is finalised, the MCP be amended in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;*

7. *Commends the State Party for the actions which are being taken to conserve significant attributes of the property, including conservation works at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, restoration of Zahdeh Historic House, adaptive re-use of the Al-Sharabati Building as a community centre, adaptive re-use of historic buildings, and rehabilitation of infrastructure at the Northern Entrance of the Old Town, and as well as for initiatives for socio-economic benefits and awareness-raising for the local community;*
8. *Deplores the ongoing Israeli activities inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, including construction of settlements, archaeological excavations, demolition of commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market and destruction of the arched and domed entrances at the historic bus station, which are illegal under international law and harmfully affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship, and asks Israel, the occupying power, to end all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions; and further takes note with concern of the completion of an electric elevator in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, which proceeded without preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) or notification to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and which may affect the authenticity and integrity of the property;*
9. *Recalls the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on current conservation and development projects which have potential adverse impact on heritage, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Calls upon all parties to refrain from any action that would cause damage to the heritage values of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value, and to take all possible measures, in line with international law, to protect the property, in particular to refrain from physical damage, prevention of conservation projects, and inappropriate new development projects within the property and its buffer zone;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
12. ***Also decides to retain Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

26. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine) (C 1492)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2014-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Potential construction of a separation fence (wall)
- Abandonment of terraces and afforestation
- Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6989>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2016)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 2,761,628 from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) for the project “Support sustainable tourism through safeguarding, rehabilitation and promotion of the agro-cultural landscape in Palestine”.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential construction of a separation fence (wall)
- Abandonment of terraces and afforestation
- Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- New constructions within the property’s boundaries

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/documents>, and which presents the following information:

- The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) has taken a proactive role in the management and conservation of the property and has appointed a site manager who oversees the implementation of projects and activities within the property;
- The Steering and Site Management Committees have been set up, and provide support, guidance and monitoring for the implementation of the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP);
- Progress was made in achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by implementing the corrective measures as follows:
 - Dismissal of plans to build a “Wall” along the property, or within its setting: Plans to build a “wall” throughout the property remain suspended. However, concerns persist regarding the potential future construction, which is beyond the State Party’s control,
 - Adequate conservation of the agricultural terraces and their associated components, including watchtowers and drystone walls throughout the property: Numerous projects have been implemented. Additionally, a project to “Support sustainable tourism through safeguarding, rehabilitation and promotion of the agro-cultural landscape in Palestine” was initiated in 2023. The project is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), with implementation by UNESCO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

- Adequate restoration in place of the irrigation system and the development of an adequate sewage system to protect water quality in the property: No progress has been achieved due to constrained financial resources. Additional efforts will be made to secure the necessary funding,
- Protection in place for the property and its buffer zone, and Management Plan and a monitoring system adopted, and sustainable management system in place: The MCP was adopted. The General Directorate for World Heritage has established a framework for Operational Management Systems for all World Heritage properties, relying on site managers and Steering and Site Management Committees, with the involvement of key stakeholders, local communities and the private sector. MCP Monitoring system has been implemented and protection methods have been developed. The land-use plan and related bylaw for specific areas in the buffer zone has been finalized, awaiting endorsement;
- Funding has not yet been secured for the visitor interpretation centre and bus parking project. The State Party will submit the necessary documents to the World Heritage Centre once funding is available. The State Party is committed to carrying Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) and/or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) prior to implementing significant interventions or proposed developments;
- Several specific threats with a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are reported, including:
 - Construction of a tunnel and bypass road that resulted in destruction of the property's landscape,
 - Expansion of the illegal Israeli settlement outpost established within the property in 2020,
 - Setting up of “communication and warnings” in Al-Qusayr and Al-Khammar areas, thus removing olive seedlings and preventing future reclamation; acts of arson damaging forest and olive trees; bulldozing of agricultural land; and expulsion of farmers from Al-Gharbi area,
 - Incursion of settlers in “Ain Bardamo” area, impacting 23 dunums of land, with bulldozing, paving roads and erecting a large tent.

The abovementioned concerns were also raised by third parties and brought to the attention of the World Heritage Centre.

In addition, UNESCO received a letter from the State Party dated 9 January 2024 reporting on the setting up of a nucleus for a new Israeli settlement within the property. The Secretariat followed up with Israel, requesting the relevant information. A reply has not been received yet.

The State Party wishes for the property to be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has made progress in the implementation of corrective measures to achieve the DSOCR and respond to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee despite challenges encountered. The absence of an adequate sewage system remains a major environmental concern. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee continue to encourage the State Party to further pursue its efforts in seeking the required funds to undertake the development of a suitable sewage system, as a matter of priority.

A site management system has been established, and terms of reference of the Steering and Site Management Committees have been defined, involving the relevant ministries, the municipalities of Battir and Beit Jala, the Hussan Village Council, local communities and stakeholders. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) remains the central supervisory authority, and the site manager, under its authority, is responsible for coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the MCP. The site manager's participation in the fifth edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum in Riyadh in September 2023 is welcomed.

The preparation of a detailed land-use plan and special bylaw provisions for designated areas of the buffer zone, and in particular for Battir Old Town, is an encouraging step to control urban expansion in the property and its buffer zone. The State Party is encouraged to pursue their endorsement and implementation.

The three-year project to "Support sustainable tourism through safeguarding, rehabilitation and promotion of the agro-cultural landscape of Battir", is to be welcomed, as it aims at promoting agro-cultural tourism as a driver for economic and social development, while safeguarding and promoting the property. The implementation of its various activities is to be encouraged.

Entrusting the site manager, in collaboration with the Steering and Site Management Committees, with the mission of ensuring that any project complies with the provisions of the MCP is very positive, as is the commitment of the State Party to carry out HIA and/or EIA for any project likely to affect the OUV of the property. The State Party's commitment to submit documentation concerning the visitor interpretation centre and bus parking project once funding has been obtained, is noted.

In 2014, the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape. The reported violations are concerning, as they may potentially lead to adverse modifications to this cultural landscape. It is recommended that the Committee request that all such development projects are halted at the property and its buffer zone.

It is recommended that the property be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.39 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the State Party for its efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property and to implement the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts in seeking the required funds to undertake the development of a suitable sewage system, as a matter of priority;*
4. *Also commends the State Party for having established the terms of reference of the Steering and Site Management Committees, and defined the site manager's responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the implementation of activities of the Management and Conservation Plan and the achievement of its objectives;*
5. *Also encourages the State Party to pursue the endorsement and implementation of the land-use plan and related bylaws to avoid uncontrolled urban growth within the property and its buffer zone, with the full involvement of the municipalities and local communities;*
6. *Welcomes the project to "Support sustainable tourism through safeguarding, rehabilitation and promotion of the agro-cultural landscape of Battir", which aims at promoting agro-cultural tourism as a driver for economic and social development, while safeguarding and promoting the property;*
7. *Takes note with concern of the reports of ongoing illegal constructions, settlements and other developments within the property and its buffer zone, and asks all parties to avoid any action that would cause damage to the property;*
8. *Requests the State party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre documentation for the interpretation centre and bus parking project once available and to continue to inform the World heritage Centre of any proposed plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
10. ***Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***