

Executive Summary of the Report

The State of Conservation (SoC) report responds to the points of Decision 45 COM 7B.174 of the Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602bis) at the 45th extended session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also responds to the recommendations made by the 2020 Joint World Heritage Center / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission.

The state of the major heritage buildings and complexes within the Historic Center of Bukhara was carefully recorded by the International Expert Group (IEG) under the auspices of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) in March-May 2019. Comprehensive monitoring and recording were completed by the IEG in February-March 2024 to verify the amount and specific features of the conservation works carried out between 2020 and 2024 (see Appendices).

Following the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2023), the SoC report is divided into 6 parts: 1) Executive Summary, 2) Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee, 3) Current conservation issues, 4) Potential major restorations/alterations, 5) Public access to the SoC report, and 6) Signature of the State Party, followed by a series of appendices.

The State Party continues applying every effort to update and improve its legal framework to manage change in the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, specifically legal enforcement regarding development projects proposed within the buffer zone. The management framework has also been optimized to address pertaining challenges and define more clearly the division of roles and responsibilities. The management approaches clearly show a major shift toward sustainable practices, which also support the inter-generation transmission of traditional crafts and arts. USTOZ SHOGIRD Center for Applied Arts serves as an excellent example of such practices. The attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been identified and presented by the IEG in the SoC report.

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) along with the Scientific Expert Council under the Agency for Cultural Heritage and the local Public Scientific Advisory Committee constitute

the multilevel control over the quality of the decision-making process concerning the World Heritage property.

The State Party has consistently introduced the moratorium since 2007 through adopting the Resolution of the Cabinet of Minister No.191 dated 11.09.2007 (lapsed in 2021). A. Amendments were introduced to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure the effective enforcement of the moratorium. Additional authority was granted to the Agency for Cultural Heritage to prevent the abovementioned violations.

The SoC report contains detailed responses to the status of implementation of the 21 recommendations mentioned in the 2020 Report on the Joint World Heritage Center / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission. Those include relevant technical details and the status of the ongoing conservation and restoration activities at major heritage buildings, including Ark Citadel, Kalon Mosque, Abdulazizkhan Madrassah, Rashid Madrassah, etc. Other matters related to broader management and conservation as well as capacity-building have been addressed in the SoC report. The review of the detailed documents revealed that the conservation activities are carried out following the design approved by the Agency for Cultural Heritage and address the most urgent structural challenges and maintenance needs.