

# AMENDMENT/PROPOSAL

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Item 7</b> <b>State of conservation of World Heritage properties</b>
<b>Draft Decision</b>	<b>47 COM 7</b>
<b>Submitted by the Delegation of:</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>
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<b>Date of submission</b>	<b>06.07.2025</b>

## TEXT

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The World Heritage Committee, 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7,

2. Recalling Decisions 42 COM 7, 43 COM 7.2, 44 COM 7.2, 45 COM 7.1, 45 COM 7.2, and 46 COM 7 adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Also recalling that all proposed major interventions in and around World Heritage properties should be subject to rigorous impact assessments, as outlined in Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context; and that both the proposals and the impact assessment-related documentation be submitted, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any interventions for new construction, demolition, modification, recovery or reconstruction commences or decisions made that cannot be reversed; Follow-up to the 2019 evaluation of the Reactive Monitoring process

4. Welcomes the detailed Implementation Plan developed by the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, which provides a clear framework to ensure the implementation of the priority recommendations of the 2019 evaluation of the Reactive Monitoring process and to report back to the Committee on their implementation;

5. Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations, expresses its gratitude to all the stakeholders of the Convention who have actively contributed to such progress and requests them to continue with the implementation of the recommendations at their level as soon as possible;
6. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, and in line with Recommendation 34 of the evaluation, to present a progress report on the achievements of the Implementation Plan, for examination at its 49th session;

### **Emergency situations resulting from conflicts**

7. Regrets the loss of human life and the deterioration of humanitarian conditions resulting from conflicts (including armed conflicts and civil unrest) in and around World Heritage properties, while expressing its deepest concern that these conflicts continue to constitute a major threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties and a major reason for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

8. Welcomes the protection and conservation efforts being undertaken by States Parties for World Heritage properties in current and former conflict zones, including the remote development of corrective measures and the progress made in defining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Invites the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies to analyse the situations where the World Heritage sites are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger on the grounds related to the threats which are beyond the relevant State Party's control such as the armed conflict, and arrange an expert study on such situations if needed.

9. 10. Urges again all parties associated with conflicts to ensure the protection of cultural and natural heritage and to avoid their use for military purposes, and calls upon all States Parties to cooperate in combating the illicit trafficking of cultural objects resulting from armed conflicts, including through the ratification of the 1970 Convention and the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols, and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015) and 2347 (2017), as well as the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendations on Museums and Collections (2015);

~~10.~~ 11. Also welcomes the continued work of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in responding to emergencies and conflicts threatening cultural and natural World Heritage properties and their OUV, including through the World Heritage Fund, the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund and the Rapid Response Facility; Recovery and Reconstruction

~~11.~~ 12. Welcomes the continued efforts of States Parties and the international community to respond to post-conflict and post-disaster recovery, as well as their positive social and community linkages, and thanks UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies and all the partners for their generous support of the initiatives and efforts;

~~12.~~ 13. Recalls that reconstruction is only justified in exceptional circumstances and should be based on thorough documentation, guided by conservation plans and policies that support the OUV and as outlined in Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines;

~~13.~~ 14. Expresses its deep condolences to the people affected by disasters over the past year and the resulting loss of lives, in addition to serious damage to heritage sites,

calls on the international community to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of protective and/or repair measures that may be required to respond to the impact of the earthquake damage;

~~14.~~ 15. Reiterates its previous encouragement to all States Parties to prepare comprehensive risk preparedness strategies and emergency response plans for World Heritage properties at risk from armed conflict and/or disasters resulting from natural causes;

~~15.~~ 16. Emphasises that Recovery Plans and major reconstruction projects which extend beyond emergency repair and stabilisation work should be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context. Development pressures

~~16.~~ 17. Reiterates its concern regarding the continued and increasing pressures on World Heritage arising from a wide range of development pressures from small scale housing projects to large scale infrastructure development, including for transport and energy, urban development and expansion, mining and extraction, and the building of border barriers, to the development of tourism infrastructure within World Heritage properties or in their wider setting, resulting in significant potential and ascertained threats to the OUV of these properties;

~~17.~~ 18. Requests States Parties to ensure that their obligations under Articles 4 and 5 of the World Heritage Convention are appropriately reflected in legislative, governance and management systems for World Heritage properties, to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to the protection of OUV across all levels of government;

~~18.~~ 19. Reiterates its encouragement to States Parties to implement the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) to further the protection of the OUV of urban World Heritage properties, and also to use the UNESCO Urban Heritage Atlas digital tool and platform towards this;

~~19.~~ 20. Reminds States Parties that, to support effective planning and decision-making, the potential impacts of proposed developments on the OUV of World Heritage properties must be thoroughly assessed in accordance with paragraphs 110 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that both development proposals and their impact assessment documentation should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to decisions that would be difficult to reverse, as stipulated in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, emphasizing that developments that will negatively impact the OUV should not be permitted to proceed, and recalling that, for any project that is considered appropriate to proceed in a World Heritage context, the findings of impact assessment reports, including project alternatives and mitigation measures, are implemented and monitored throughout the project lifecycle;

~~20.~~ 21. Welcomes the forthcoming updated Guidance for Wind and Solar Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context, and invites States Parties to make use of it and to refer proponents of renewable energy projects to it to ensure alignment with World Heritage protection requirements;

~~24.~~ 22. Appreciates ongoing capacity-building/coaching support being provided to States Parties by the Kingdom of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in undertaking impact assessments in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO, IUCN and NCEA; Management Effectiveness

~~22.~~ 23. Invites States Parties to implement best-practice management approaches that include periodic monitoring and evaluation of World Heritage management systems to ensure effective protection and maintenance of the OUV, and to utilise the 2023

Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 and other relevant tools, to inform adaptive management approaches;

~~23-~~ 24. Notes the critical importance of clearly established legislation and governance arrangements for the protection of the OUV of World Heritage properties and recalls that effective management systems for World Heritage properties, including HIA mechanisms, should be integrated into local, regional, and national planning processes to ensure coherent and coordinated protection of the OUV at all levels of government, emphasizing the importance of sustainable solutions that ensure the long-term protection and maintenance of OUV including with the implementation of the HUL Recommendation for urban World Heritage properties;

~~24-~~ 25. Also recalls that the preparation of new nomination dossiers for the World Heritage List should ensure that management systems for potential properties include provisions for monitoring and evaluating management effectiveness, as well as robust impact assessment processes;

~~25-~~ 26. Further recalls the availability of information systems supporting effective management, including the World Heritage Online Map Platform, alongside the importance of sharing best practices through the UNESCO World Heritage Canopy platform and the IUCNICCROM-ICOMOS Nature Culture Community of PANORAMA and invites States Parties to continue contributing to these platforms and to share effective management practices; Climate Change

~~26-~~ 27. Notes with concern that World Heritage properties continue to increasingly face impacts of climate change, including extreme temperature fluctuations and heatwaves, wildfires, flooding, glacier retreat, storms, droughts, desertification and sea-level rise; and also notes the publication 'Climate Change in Mediterranean World Heritage Cities' and its finding that the predicted future scenario under the worst-case for 2100 is already being experienced at many urban World Heritage properties with predictions only likely to further increase in intensity and frequency and highlights the potential of urban heritage to enhance resilience;

~~27-~~ 28. Urges States Parties to implement the 2023 Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage (Policy Document) and encourages again the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres to disseminate it widely through appropriate means;

~~28-~~ 29. Also encourages national, sub-national, local, and site authorities to assess and monitor climate impacts on their properties in line with the Policy Document, and to ensure that the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions effectively reflects relevant practices and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities associated with the property;

~~29-~~ 30. Calls on national, sub-national, local, and site authorities to integrate World Heritage properties into plans, policies, and actions to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage due to climate change and related disasters; Corporate sustainability

~~30-~~ 31. Welcomes the growing efforts of the corporate sector and the development banks to integrate World Heritage safeguards into their sustainability policies and strategies, and invites all relevant private and public sector companies to follow the example, and to submit their adopted policies to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;

~~31-~~ 32. Reiterates its request to the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to continue to work with the corporate sector to support the adoption and implementation of World Heritage safeguards policies;

~~32-~~ 33. Notes with serious concern the reported high presence of extractive assets, including claims, concessions and projects for mining, oil and gas in natural World Heritage properties, and recalls that the activities of the extractive sector are considered incompatible with the World Heritage status;

~~33.~~ 34. Urges all States Parties to the Convention, as well as industry players and their investors and assurers, to respect the World Heritage 'no-go' commitment by not authorising and not pursuing activities of the extractives sector within World Heritage properties, and ensuring that activities that are conducted outside properties are subject to appropriate impact assessments, conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and avoid all harm on World Heritage; Invasive Alien Species

~~34.~~ 35. Continues to note with concern the threat posed by invasive alien species (IAS) to natural World Heritage properties and the number of properties significantly affected by IAS;

~~35.~~ 36. Urges States Parties to develop adequately-resourced IAS strategies and action plans that emphasise prevention, early warning and rapid response in World Heritage properties, and encourages States Parties to utilise the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) IAS Toolkit for Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework(GBF), produced in collaboration with IUCN; also encouraging States Parties to consider World Heritage as part of their national strategies towards achieving Target 6 of the GBF;

~~36.~~ 37. Strongly encourages again States Parties to incorporate IAS response strategies into climate change mitigation policies and actions for World Heritage properties.