



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

31 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-07/31.COM/INF.7A.3

Paris, 23 May 2007

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-first Session

Christchurch, New Zealand

23 June – 2 July 2007

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

**INF.7A.3 Decision of the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 176th session
(April 2007) during the Special plenary meeting on Jerusalem**

SUMMARY

This document consists in the text of the Decision adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 176th session, during the Special plenary meeting on the Israeli excavations at the Mughrabi ascent in the Old City of Jerusalem (16, 17 and 18 April 2007).

Special plenary meeting

(Monday 16 April, Tuesday 17 April and Wednesday 18 April 2007)

176 EX/Special plenary meeting/Decision

Israeli archaeological excavations at the Mughrabi ascent in the Old City of Jerusalem
(176 EX/Special plenary meeting/1; 176 EX/Special plenary meeting/INF.1; 176 EX/Special plenary meeting/INF.2)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982), the relevant resolutions, decisions and recommendations of UNESCO, paragraph 6 of Decision 30 COM 7A.34 of the World Heritage Committee, and other conventions as appropriate,
2. Having examined the report of the technical mission sent by the Director-General from 28 February to 2 March 2007 "to study the reconstruction work and archaeological excavation at the Mughrabi ascent",
3. Reaffirms the outstanding universal value of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and the importance of its protection and safeguarding for the collective memory of people from different religions and cultural backgrounds, especially the peoples of the region, having regard to their history and civilization;
4. Encourages the Israeli authorities to provide the necessary details regarding the final design of the Mughrabi ascent, and affirms that the principal aim of the said design should be to maintain the authenticity and integrity of the site;
5. Encourages the Israeli authorities to cooperate with the Waqf of Jerusalem and the Jordanian authorities;
6. Encourages all Member States, authorities and institutions to cooperate constructively for the protection, safeguarding and restoration of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem;
7. Expresses its sincere thanks to the Director-General for the actions he has taken to reaffirm UNESCO's noble mission to safeguard, preserve and restore world heritage for the sake of humanity and future generations;
8. Appreciates the concern expressed on this topic at the special plenary meeting;
9. Invites the Director-General to request the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee to convene immediately to prepare the ground for the informal meeting of the World Heritage Committee in early June, in order to ensure a substantive discussion on the follow-up to the report of the technical mission at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee;

10. Requests the Director-General, within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, to propose to the World Heritage Committee at its forthcoming session a mechanism to ensure the proper implementation of World Heritage Committee decisions;
11. Invites the Director-General to submit to the Executive Board at its 177th session a report on the progress made in this regard.