

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

“Restoration of Cultural Heritage Sites damaged by armed conflicts”

April 14th, 2023

Sponsors : United States of America, India, Italy

Signatories : Türkiye, Peru

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization :

Reaffirming the principles established by The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

Emphasizing article 8 of Rome Statute regarding intentional attacks against buildings dedicated to religious, cultural and historical purposes;

Alarmed by the risks of destruction of Cultural Heritage in armed conflicts zone such as in Ukraine, Syria, Palestine, Mali and Afghanistan ;

Aware the sites needs protection AND restoration before, during and after armed conflicts to preserve them for future generations;

Recognizing that restoration of Cultural Heritage Sites damaged by armed conflicts is as important as Protection of the cultural sites and Cooperation to preserve them;

Recalling that the whole world has cultural heritage from many civilisations and all deserve to be preserved;

Affirming that the remembrance of cultural heritage will be preserved as memorial for the future generations to commemorate the history of our humanity;

Keeping in mind that States have sovereignty on their territories and all of them have a different cultural and political sensibility;

1. *Invites* all member states to create a special security pole in their country who will have as a mission :
 - a. To protect the sites,
 - b. To prevent trafficking cultural artifacts,
 - c. To prevent corruption when restoring cultural sites,
 - d. To create links between national and private organizations to preserve the cultural heritage,
 - e. To intervene on place in time of urgency to preserve the cultural heritage;

2. *Encourages* nations to use resources through :
 - a. The creation of Special security force to:
 - i. avoid trafficking and pillaging,
 - ii. transfer pieces in secure places,
 - iii. intervene in time of urgency,
 - iv. reinforce international law,
 - b. The use of Technology to:
 - i. digitize the sites to map them and restore them after destruction,
 - ii. help scientists, researchers, historians and more to study the sites and be allowed to protect them in the best way possible,
 - iii. other aims for protection, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage,

- c. Cooperation with native and local people to spread awareness about their cultural sites through
 - i. educating global communities in the importance of their cultural heritage,
 - ii. stimulating educational campaigns to be implemented in schools and universities,
 - iii. educating local community in the mechanism to protect and preserve cultural heritage,
 - iv. working with native population to understand sites, respect and preserve them,
 - d. Collaboration with private and national institutes in terms of:
 - i. Financial Aid,
 - ii. Sharing Knowledge,
 - iii. Enhancing Security,
 - iv. Strengthening Infrastructure;
3. *Calls upon* the international community to allow museums to take pieces and restore them with better technology;
 4. *Encourages* members and observers of UNESCO to acknowledge most of international laws linked to protection, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage;
 5. *Encourages* to allow UNESCO decision making to mark cultural heritage sites as important during armed conflict and in the case of its threat;
 6. *Recommends* making military personnel aware of the value of cultural sites in order to train them to not damage them by educating to recognize and protect;
 7. *Recalls* the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on 3 September 1992 so countries avoid most of the use of chemical weapons and destruction in cultural zones at risk;

8. *Encourages* a development of a cultural economic pole to :
 - a. Have national financial resources for cultural heritage
 - b. Advocate for financial assistance for the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage sites by setting up the necessary fund and designing donor countries to carry out the projects;
9. *Suggests* all members to allow envoy by UNESCO to work on they ground to restore cultural heritage;
10. *Demands* those responsible of armed conflicts to be part of the restoration in a financial and material manner in the respect of the concept of objectivity and reasonableness;
11. *Calls* for the use of technology resources to preserve cultural heritage with :
 - a. Informatics
 - b. Virtual reality
 - c. Computer graphics
 - d. Artificial Intelligence
 - e. Videography
 - f. Others resources;
12. *Limits* In respect to the country's approval the access of restored cultural heritage for tourists if
 - a. The site or its zone is considered to be a danger to tourists
 - b. Tourism results in the degradation or damage of the cultural site
13. *Asks* that all member countries and observers countries who would like to join to share their knowledge on:
 - i. History

- ii. Technology
 - iii. Ways of restoration, protection and preservation
 - iv. Archeological Science
 - v. Others important guidance to preserve the Cultural Heritage;
14. *Promotes* the establishment of agencies and non-governmental organizations in order to prevent combat looting and to encourage the protection of heritage, culture in general and cultural heritage sites;
15. *Calls upon* an integration of native population for the understanding of meanings of cultural sites in order to protect, preserve and restore the cultural sites;
16. *Encourages* the establishment of a UNESCO task force to tackle corruption and misuse of UNESCO fundings and to oversee the financial aid provided by UNESCO and prevent archeological trafficking;
17. *Requests* an annual specific meeting with all the UNESCO members about the topic of Restoration of cultural Heritage Sites damaged by armed conflicts;
18. *Declares* that, according to Sustainable Goals by the UN, all countries should apply the sustainable rules of development in the actions they take specifically to
- a. avoid unsustainable choices that could pollute the area surrounding the cultural heritage sites
 - b. apply sustainable methods to restore and protect cultural heritage sites
19. *Ensures* the equal treatment and equal wages of workers and employers when rebuilding cultural sites that have been destroyed while respecting the country's culture.