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SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954 FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

Ninth meeting
UNESCO Headquarters
18 to 19 December 2014

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretariat on its activities

This document contains the Report of the Secretariat on its activities covering the period between the 8th Meeting of the Committee (18 – 19 December 2013) and 2 September 2014. An oral update will be delivered during the 9th Meeting of the Committee.

The report covers, among other things, actions of UNESCO concerning:

- the protection of cultural property of the Syrian Arab Republic;
- the protection of cultural property of the Republic of Iraq;
- follow-up of the decisions adopted by the statutory bodies of the 1954 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol;
- the implementation of the Second Protocol, including awareness-raising activities; and,
- the requests introduced by States Party to the Second Protocol for the granting of enhanced protection.

1. This report of the Secretariat covers the period between the 8th Meeting of the Committee (UNESCO Headquarters, 18 – 19 December 2013) and 2 September 2014. An oral update will be delivered during the 9th Meeting of the Committee.
2. It should be mentioned that this is not an exhaustive report of the activities of the Secretariat. Indeed, several activities of the Secretariat are described in separate documents prepared for this Meeting of the Committee.

I. Encouraging UNESCO Member States to become Party to the Second Protocol

3. Since 19 December 2013, Morocco has been the only State to ratify the Second Protocol, bringing the number of States Party to this instrument to 67. There are currently 126 States Party to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and 103 of those States are party to the First Protocol.
4. Previously, the Chairperson of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict met with a number of Permanent Delegations to encourage their respective governments to become party to the Second Protocol. The Secretariat will send follow-up letters to these Delegations expressing the advantages of becoming a party to the Second Protocol.

II. UNESCO's action for the protection of the cultural property of the Syrian Arab Republic

5. Since the outbreak of the armed conflict in Syria in March 2011, UNESCO has undertaken numerous actions for the safeguarding of the country's cultural heritage. Since the 8th Meeting of the Committee, the following actions have been taken:

A. United Nations Security Council

6. The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2139 on 22 February 2014,¹ which calls explicitly on all parties to take appropriate steps to ensure the protection of Syria's World Heritage sites. Following the adoption of this Resolution, the UNESCO Director-General sent a series of letters (see point B below).

B. Communications with the United Nations and Permanent Members of the Security Council

7. On 20 January 2014 and 26 February 2014 the Director-General wrote a letter to the then UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative for Syria, Mr Lakhdar Brahimi, requesting his intervention in support of the protection of Syria's cultural heritage.
8. On 28 February 2014, the Director-General sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General requesting his participation in a joint international appeal to end the destruction of Syrian cultural heritage.
9. On 3 March 2014, the Director-General also sent letters to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, inviting these countries, in their capacity as Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council, to consider all possible means to prevent the mindless destruction of cultural heritage in Syria, and particularly the Old City of Aleppo. A similar letter was sent to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxemburg in his capacity as the President of the Security Council.

¹ Available online at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2139\(2014\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2139(2014))

C. Press Release by the Director-General

10. On 20 February 2014, the Director-General issued a press release condemning military presence and destruction of three UNESCO World Heritage sites in Syria - Palmyra, the Krak des Chevaliers, and Aleppo - and appealed to all parties to honour their obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict to abstain from using cultural property or its immediate surroundings for military purposes.²

D. Joint Statement on Syrian Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Security-General, the UNESCO Director-General, and the Joint UN-Arab League Special Representative for Syria

11. On 12 March 2014, the United Nations Security-General, the UNESCO Director-General, and the Joint UN-Arab League Special Representative for Syria issued a joint statement calling on all parties to halt immediately the destruction of Syrian cultural heritage, to save Syria's cultural heritage, and to protect its World Heritage sites in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2139, adopted 22 February 2014.³
12. The statement condemns the use of cultural sites for military purposes and calls on all parties to the conflict to uphold international obligations, notably the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and customary international law.
13. Additionally, the statement appealed to all countries and professional bodies involved in customs, trade and the art market, as well as individuals and tourists, to be on alert for stolen Syrian artifacts, to verify the origin of cultural property that might be illegally imported, exported and/or offered for sale, and to adhere to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

E. Meeting of Experts

14. UNESCO hosted an Experts Meeting entitled "Rallying the International Community to Safeguard Syria's Cultural Heritage" which occurred from 26 to 28 May 2014 at UNESCO Headquarters. The meeting focused on the implementation of the UNESCO Action Plan for emergency safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage adopted in 2013. It was decided at the meeting that an Observatory should be established in Beirut to monitor the state of Syria's cultural heritage. The Observatory consists of an online interface where information can be shared concerning damaged and looted property and endangered intangible cultural property.⁴

III. UNESCO's action for the protection of the cultural property of Iraq

15. Following the outbreak of violence in Iraq in June 2014, the Secretariat held an emergency meeting on 17 July 2014 with Delegates from Iraq, international cultural heritage experts, and institutional partners. UNESCO issued a press release concerning the meeting and summarizing its outcomes.⁵ The participants of the meeting agreed on an Emergency Response Action Plan to safeguard Iraq's cultural heritage, which is currently facing threats caused by armed conflict, intentional destruction, and illicit excavation of archeological sites.

² http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/regional-response/single-view/news/unesco_director_general_condemns_military_presence_and_destruction_at_world_heritage_sites_in_syria/

³ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/in-focus-articles/the-destruction-of-syrias-cultural-heritage-must-stop/>

⁴ More information concerning the meeting can be accessed on UNESCO's website available online at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/international-initiatives/syria-expert-meeting/#c1412002>

⁵ Available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/a36765f929/back/9597/#.U85oUfmSzDs>

The Action Plan is meant to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders in safeguarding Iraq's cultural heritage.

IV. List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection

16. At its 8th Meeting, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property inscribed five new cultural properties on the list of cultural property under enhanced protection:
- Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshahs' Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan);
 - Gobustan Archaeological Site (Azerbaijan);
 - Victor Horta's House and Workshop (Belgium);
 - Neolithic Flint Mines at Spiennes (Mons) (Belgium); and,
 - Plantin Moretus House Workshop Museum Complex and the Business Archives of the Officina Plantiniana (Belgium).
17. At present, the list consists of ten cultural properties under enhanced protection including the new inscriptions. In accordance with the relevant provision of the Second Protocol, the Secretariat has made available online the updated list of cultural property under enhanced protection.⁶

V. The sixtieth anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention and the fifteenth anniversary of the 1999 Second Protocol

18. The Netherlands authorities organized at The Hague on 12 May 2014 a roundtable on the future of the Hague Convention, the necessity of international agreements and the challenges faced when working in the field of heritage protection in conflict-ridden regions. The roundtable was followed by the official launch of the photo exhibition "Culture under Attack".⁷
19. The Director-General published on 14 May 2014 a Press Release on the sixtieth anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention and the fifteenth anniversary of the 1999 Second Protocol.⁸
20. The French newspaper *Le Figaro* published the same day in its on-line edition the Director-General's article on the importance of the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.⁹
21. A conference on *Conflict and Heritage*, jointly organized by UNESCO and the United Nations University, was held on 12 June 2014. During the conference, and within the framework of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention, certificates on the granting of enhanced protection were awarded to the five States Party to the Second Protocol (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Cyprus, Italy and Lithuania) that have cultural property inscribed on the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection. The awarding of the certificates is intended to raise awareness of enhanced protection under the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention, encourage Member States to apply for enhanced protection for their own cultural heritage, and urge States which are not yet parties to the Second Protocol to ratify the Second Protocol.

⁶ http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/19542P-enhanced-protection-list-en_20140320.pdf

⁷ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/armed-conflict-and-heritage/60th-anniversary-of-the-1954-convention/>

⁸ Available on-line at http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/60th_anniversary_of_the_hague_convention_on_the_protection_of_cultural_property_in_the_event_of_armed_conflict/back/9597/

⁹ <http://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/monde/2014/05/14/31002-20140514ARTFIG00161-la-protection-du-patrimoine-est-inseparable-de-la-protection-des-vies-humaines.php>

VI. Human resources of the Secretariat

22. In 2013 and 2014, the Secretariat obtained from Belgium additional funds in the form of appropriation letters. The Junior Professional Officer from Azerbaijan arrived on 16 June 2014. The Secretariat is also working on the creation of a sub-fund in order to gather extrabudgetary funds for human resources and activities.

VII. Follow-up of the decisions of the 8th Meeting of the Committee

A. Development of methodologies to analyze criteria 10 (a) and 10 (b) of the 1999 Second Protocol in order to facilitate the submission and evaluation of requests for enhanced protection

23. By Decision 8.COM 2, the Committee invited the Secretariat to present the conclusions of the studies undertaken by ICOMOS to analyze criteria 10 (a) and 10 (b) of the 1999 Second Protocol as well as any potential follow-up at its 9th Meeting.
24. The Secretariat has provided ICOMOS with its comments on the studies and is working with ICOMOS to finalize them. They will be submitted to the Secretariat in mid-September and presented to the 9th Meeting.

B. Synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, other conventions, programmes and State actors

25. By Decision 8.COM 3, the Committee (a) requested the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to develop synergies with the 1972 World Heritage Convention; (b) invited its Bureau and the Secretariat to continue to explore synergies with other relevant UNESCO standard-setting instruments and programmes ; and (c) encouraged its Bureau and the Secretariat to continue the strengthening of partnerships with all stakeholders concerned with the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. In accordance with this decision, the Secretariat will submit an exhaustive report on the development of synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, other conventions, programmes, and State actors at the 9th Meeting of the Committee.

a. Synergies with the World Heritage Convention

26. To develop synergies between the World Heritage Convention and the Second Protocol, the Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols and the Chairperson met with the World Heritage Centre on potential modifications to the forms for inscription on the World Heritage List in order to allow States that are party to both the World Heritage Convention and the Second Protocol to apply, at their convenience, simultaneously for inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection. It was also considered that an integrated approach to periodic reporting would be more appropriate.
27. The Secretariat will also work closely with the Chairperson of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict in order to send letters to States with property on the World Heritage List encouraging them to apply for enhanced protection for their cultural heritage. It is hoped that this action will increase the number of cultural properties under enhanced protection.

b. Synergies with other relevant UNESCO standard-setting instruments and programmes

28. The Chairperson of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict has met with the Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee to the meeting of States Party to the 1970 UNESCO Convention in order to discuss the possible improvement of the protection of cultural property through the synergies existing between the 1954 Hague

Convention and its two Protocols and the 1970 UNESCO Convention on issues of illicit trafficking of cultural property.

c. Strengthening of Partnerships with all Stakeholders Concerned with the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

29. The Chairperson of the Committee has convened representatives of UNESCO, ICRC, and the Blue Shield in order to form a discussion platform on all matters related to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including communication in case of emergency. The main objective of the international platform is to ensure dissemination of information on cultural heritage to all actors concerned and to strengthen efforts in the event of a crisis.

C. Form for the Tentative List of cultural property that may be submitted for the granting of enhanced protection

30. In compliance with Decision 8.COM 6, the Secretariat made this form available on its website.¹⁰

D. Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including occupation

31. By Decision 8.COM 7, the Committee encouraged the Director-General (a) to undertake conciliation or mediation, with a view to settling disagreements between the Parties to a conflict, in order to ensure better protection of cultural property in occupied territory; and (b) in accordance with the provisions of the Second Protocol and with the established United Nations procedures and channels, to draw the attention of the competent United Nations bodies to the issue of the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including occupation, in their resolutions.

32. By the same Decision, the Committee also invited the Secretariat to prepare a document for its 9th Meeting with a view to proposing concrete actions, including the carrying out of technical missions on the ground, in accordance with the Second Protocol and its Guidelines for monitoring the state of the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including occupation.

33. Such document is presented in CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/3.

E. National reports on the implementation of the Second Protocol

34. By Decision 8.COM 9, the Committee invited the Bureau to begin reflecting on the issue of national reports, including the monitoring of cultural property under enhanced protection, and the format of the summary document submitted to the Committee.

35. The issue is currently under consideration.

F. Fundraising strategy for the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

36. By Decision 8.COM 10, the Committee requested the Secretariat to present to it at its 9th Meeting an update on the fundraising strategy for the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

37. The Chairperson, together with the Secretariat, held meetings with different Permanent Delegations to encourage them to contribute to the Fund. By its letter dated 25 June 2014 the Government of the Netherlands informed the Secretariat of its intention to provide 25,000 EUR to the Fund. The balance of the Fund currently stands at 333,965 USD. New Zealand's contribution to the Fund in the amount of 6,344 EUR is currently being processed.

¹⁰ http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/TentativeList-Form_en.pdf.

38. The Secretariat is also preparing a document on the creation of a Special Account to receive voluntary contributions to be used exclusively for the purpose of enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat. Such Special Accounts have already been established by the intergovernmental Committees of the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention.

G. *Proposals to amend Section VII of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee*

39. By Decision 8.COM 11, the Committee invited the Bureau to further consider the issues of election timing and composition of the Bureau, and to suggest proposals, as appropriate, to amend Section VII of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.
40. The Secretariat is working with the Office of the Legal Counsel on this issue with a view to submitting a document to the 9th Meeting of the Committee.

H. *Creation of a specific distinctive emblem to mark properties under enhanced protection of the Second Protocol*

41. By Decision 8.COM 12, the Committee invited the Bureau to submit to the Committee's 9th Meeting a proposal to create a specific distinctive emblem to mark cultural property under enhanced protection, as well as the modalities of its use, with a view to obtaining its adoption by the 6th Meeting of the Parties in 2015. The Bureau of the Committee, on 20 May 2014, considered the first draft document on the creation of a distinctive emblem. After the discussion the Members of the Bureau agreed on a deadline of 15 July for submission of comments. On the deadline, the Secretariat had only received feedback from Austria and the ICRC and introduced the relevant comments. A second draft document was submitted to the informal meeting of the Bureau in September in anticipation of its consideration by the 9th Meeting of the Committee.
42. This proposal is presented in document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/4.

I. *Follow-up to the audit of the working methods of Cultural Conventions*

43. By Decision 8.COM 13, the Committee tasked its Bureau with studying the recommendations contained in the IOS report with a view to submitting at its 9th Meeting a set of concrete recommendations for streamlining the work of the Committee.
44. The relevant Secretariat's document is currently under preparation.

J. *External audit undertaken by the External Auditor pursuant to the Resolution 37 C/96*

45. The Secretariat provided the Chairperson with purely technical information to enable him to complete questionnaires for the external audit pursuant to Resolution 37 C/96.

VIII. *Follow-up of the decisions of the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Second Protocol*

A. *Reflection upon the forms annexed to and the elaboration mechanisms of the Guidelines*

46. By Decision 5.SP2, the Parties requested the Committee to reflect upon the forms annexed to the Guidelines, as well as their elaboration mechanisms, and report thereon at its 6th Meeting.
47. The issue is currently under consideration.

B. *Implementation of an effective fundraising strategy for the Fund*

48. By Decision 5.SP3, the Parties requested that the Committee continue the implementation of an effective fundraising strategy for the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and requested that the Secretariat report to it thereon at its 6th Meeting. In relation to this issue, the Secretariat is working on the updating of the fundraising

strategy which will be considered by the Committee's at its meeting (see above, paragraphs 36-38).

IX. Requests for the granting of enhanced protection

49. Following the Secretariat's e-mail of 11 February 2014 inviting Parties to submit requests for the granting of enhanced protection, the Secretariat received eleven requests for the granting of enhanced protection from the Czech Republic – (1) Historic Centre of Český Krumlov, (2) Historic Centre of Telč, (3) Holašovice Historical Village Reservation, (4) Tugendhat Villa in Brno, (5) Gardens and Castel at Kroměříž, (6) Kutná Hora: Historic Town Centre with the Church of Saint Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec, (7) Litomyšl Castle, (8) Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape, (9) Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc, (10) Jewish Quarter and Saint Procopius' Basilica at Třebíč, and (11) Pilgrimage Church of Saint John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora – and two requests from Nigeria – (1) Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove and (2) Sukur Cultural Landscape. As neither request has been submitted through the Permanent Delegations of the Parties concerned, in conformity with paragraph 45 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol, the Secretariat sought the necessary confirmation. While the Czech Delegation provided such confirmation, despite several requests from the Secretariat, the Permanent Delegation of Nigeria has not. The Nigerian Delegation did not support the request for enhanced protection and could not confirm the request. On 24 April 2014, the Chairperson and the Secretariat met with the Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to inform her that the Nigerian requests will not be taken into consideration this year. However, the Secretariat assured the Permanent Delegate of their availability to assist in improving and processing the requests.
50. Finally, after the deadline of 1 March 2014, the Secretariat was informed by the Permanent Delegation of Egypt to UNESCO of its intention to submit requests for the granting of enhanced protection. The Secretariat informed the Delegation that the requests could not be taken into account in view of its late submission. However, as in the case of Nigeria, the Secretariat will work closely with the Permanent Delegation of Egypt to enable it to submit complete files in 2015.
51. The evaluation sheets for each Czech cultural property were made available to the Bureau on 5 May 2014.
52. On 9 June 2014, the Secretariat had a meeting with two representatives of the Czech Ministry of Culture related to the eleven Czech requests for the granting of enhanced protection under the Second Protocol. The Secretariat addressed the incomplete nature of the requests and the need to complete them by providing references to annexes and by submitting missing information related to military measures and penal sanctions. It was proposed that a test-case be made and submitted to the Secretariat for completeness. The Delegation agreed and proposed to formally withdraw the requests.
53. The Secretariat will work with the Czech authorities to complete the requests for the submission in 2015. The Secretariat has prepared a practical information sheet on the granting of enhanced protection.

X. Activities of the Secretariat for raising awareness on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict

A. Training workshop at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, 3-6 June 2014, San Remo (Italy)

54. On 3-6 June 2014, the Secretariat took part in a training workshop on non-international armed conflicts organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. This workshop was offered to military personnel and Government specialists from various

countries. During the workshop, the Secretariat led the module on UNESCO's role concerning the Protection of Objects and Places.¹¹

55. Possible avenues for future cooperation between UNESCO and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law with regard to the training of military personnel were discussed.

B. Cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

56. The Secretariat cooperated with the ICRC by providing its comments on two documents related to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, namely a technical paper on the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols and the Model Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict Act, both made by the Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law of the ICRC. The Model Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict Act is proposed for consideration by States with a Common Law legal tradition. For States with a Civil Law legal tradition, this model law may prove useful as a checklist of provisions that need to be domesticated.

C. Cooperation with the French Army

57. As France is considering becoming a Party to the Second Protocol, the French Army drafted a practical guide on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. In drafting the guide, the coordinator asked the UNESCO Secretariat to contribute its expertise. In response, the Secretariat provided all the relevant and necessary comments.

D. Seminar on the protection of cultural property, its military and operational aspects and its implementation in situations outside armed conflicts, 22 May 2014, Brussels (Belgium)

58. The Chairperson of the Committee and the Secretariat attended a seminar on the protection of cultural property and its operational and military aspects in times of peace.¹² This seminar was organized by the Centre of Study on Military Law and the Law of War in Belgium. The Chairperson and the Secretariat made three presentations. The finalized presentation will be posted on the Centre of Study on Military Law and the Law of War website.¹³

E. The website of the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols

59. The Basic Texts on the website of the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols were updated.¹⁴
60. A section entitled "Best Practices" was added to the website. The section includes the activities undertaken by States Parties pursuant to the assistance granted by the Committee concerning the dissemination, awareness-raising, and identification of cultural property with the Blue Shield emblem of protection in the event of armed conflict. Currently, the activities developed by El Salvador and Mali are provided online. The joint submission presented by Cyprus and the Netherlands during the 10th meeting of the High Contracting Parties is also available online.¹⁵
61. The Secretariat will make every effort to organize an event in Autumn 2014 for States Party to the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention that will explain the advantages of enhanced protection as well as provide instruction on the process for seeking enhanced protection for cultural property.

¹¹ Available at

<http://www.iihl.org/Media/Default/Courses%20and%20Workshops/NIAC/Programme%20NIAC%20Workshop%202014%20last%20version%2007.05.pdf>

¹² Program available at <http://www.ismllw-be.org/session/2014-05-22-Prog.pdf>

¹³ The presentation will be available on <http://www.ismllw-be.org/session/2014.htm>

¹⁴ Available at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/armed-conflict-and-heritage/reference-documents/#c287992>

¹⁵ Available at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/armed-conflict-and-heritage/best-practices/>

62. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 9.COM 2

The Committee,

1. Having considered document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/2,
2. Takes note with appreciation of the Secretariat's report on its activities for following up decisions of the 8th meeting of the Committee;
3. Welcomes the partnership activities carried out by Secretariat with all stakeholders concerning the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict;
4. Also takes note of the increase in tasks assigned to the Secretariat and therefore, invites State Parties to contribute in human and financial resources to support the work of the Secretariat;
5. Thanks the Republic of Azerbaijan for its generous contribution of a Junior Professional Officer to the Secretariat.