UNESCO organized an expert emergency mission to the National Museum of Brazil from 12 to 24 September 2018, working closely with Brazilian authorities to assess damage and help guide recovery efforts following a fire that devastated the 200-year-old museum. The UNESCO mission benefited from the expertise of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and two German experts made generously available by the German government. A detailed Action Plan drafted by the mission team will help guide the arduous task of restoration and recovery of the site and its artefacts. The plan prioritized emergency interventions, including the structural stabilization and sheltering of the museum building, salvaging artefacts from the debris, reconstituting the collections through loans and donations from other museums worldwide, and developing emergency risk management plans for other museums in Brazil. More than 20 million items were believed to be part of the museum’s original collections, including a 12,000-year-old human skeleton known as “Luzia” and rare recordings of indigenous Brazilian languages that are testimony to the region’s precious intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO’s mission to Brazil was deployed following a pledge of support by the Director-General of the Organization, Audrey Azoulay, and was made possible thanks to Heritage Emergency Fund.