



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF IRAQ

FINAL REPORT

Third Plenary Session

(Paris, 13-14 November 2007)

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Third Plenary Session

(Paris, UNESCO, Room II, 13-14 November 2007)

Final Report

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Further to the First and Second Plenary Sessions of the *International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq* (ICC), which took place at UNESCO Headquarters on 23-24 May 2004 and 22-23 June 2005 respectively, the *Third Plenary Session* of the above-mentioned International Committee was convened at UNESCO Headquarters on 13-14 November 2007 by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Senior Deputy Minister of Culture of Iraq.
- 1.2 The meeting was also attended by Mr Mufid Jazairi – Parliament Member, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission on Culture and Media. According to the Statutes of the ICC, international experts on cultural heritage, members of the ICC, as well as observers such as representatives of ICOM, ICCROM, ICOMOS, ICA, IFLA, etc. participated in the meeting (Annex 1 - list of participants).

1.3 The Committee's aim was two-fold: First, to evaluate the assistance in the conservation of cultural heritage in Iraq; second, to coordinate activities and efforts in this respect.

1.4 The meeting was organized in six sessions:

- Opening session
- Historic buildings and archaeological sites
- Museums and cultural objects (with a special focus on illicit traffic of cultural property)
- Intangible heritage
- Libraries and archives
- Closing session

2. OPENING SESSION

2.1 The 3rd ICC meeting was opened by UNESCO's Director-General Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, who welcomed the Iraqi authorities, institutions, experts and participants for their participation and commitment in safeguarding Iraq's heritage.

2.2 Mr. Matsuura's speech was followed by Mr. Jaber Mohammad Abbas Al-Jaberi, Iraqi Senior Deputy Minister of Culture, who focused his opening speech on the universal value of the Iraqi cultural heritage and called the international community to share responsibility in safeguarding this heritage, especially given the current situation in Iraq. He stressed the importance of the ICC recommendations as guidelines for actions, and expressed his gratitude to the Director-General and all UNESCO colleagues for organizing this meeting.

2.3 The Chairperson recalled that in line with Articles 4.1 and 4.2 of the Statutes, and Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the ICC, at its First Session (24-25 May 2004), the Committee elected, for a four-year term, Architect Roberto Parapetti, Director of the Italian-Iraqi Centre for the Restoration of Monuments in Baghdad, and Prof. Ken Matsumoto, Director of the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq at the Kokushikan University in Tokyo, as its two Vice-

Chairpersons. Moreover, Dr Margareta Van Ess, Director of the German missions to Uruk of the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, was elected Rapporteur.

2.4 Adoption of the Agenda

PRESENTATION BY UNESCO

Ms Françoise Rivière, Assistant Director-General for Culture took the floor. She started by thanking all of the participants for their efforts in helping to safeguard Iraq's heritage. She noted the importance of ICC Conferences, as they allow specialists to meet and formulate recommendations regarding the measures that need to be taken to strengthen international cooperation in order to safeguard Iraq's cultural heritage. Referring to the example of the bombing of the Al'Askari sanctuary, Ms Rivière highlighted that Iraq's cultural heritage is still very much at risk. She also stressed that writers, artists, singers, and others who express the country's living heritage, continue to be persecuted and/or are forced to flee the country. She noted that security issues constitute the most important obstacle, yet political instability and frequent changes of national decision-makers greatly hinder the reconstruction of Iraq. She noted that the Iraq UNESCO office remains in Amman due to security concerns as well as severe restrictions in terms of freedom of movement within Iraq. She stressed that the current situation obliges UNESCO to adopt innovative approaches in order to deal with the constraints brought about by the lack of security. Activities 'in the field' are undertaken and followed up by local entrepreneurs, and certain projects are supervised thanks to teleconferences and meetings outside of Iraq.

In the field of illicit trafficking, Ms Rivière mentioned that: (1) UNESCO was, for the first time, invited within the framework of Resolution 1483 of the UN Security Council, to assist State-Parties in returning Iraqi cultural goods; (2) UNESCO has supported the relevant Iraqi ministers by reinforcing the capacity of border patrols; (3) UNESCO has further reinforced local capacity by providing equipment.

Ms Rivière further noted that similar to other developing countries, Iraq has not yet adopted a systematic national inventory of its cultural heritage. UNESCO has supported Iraq in this respect by (1) encouraging the creation of a database of

archaeological sites; (2) supporting the preparation of inventories of cultural goods; (3) facilitating the training for identifying objects, thereby assuring their traceability in the event of pillage; and (4) increasing public awareness on illicit trafficking and stolen objects.

Ms Rivière reiterated that UNESCO had been requested to support awareness-raising activities on the importance of cultural heritage. Within this framework, UNESCO rehabilitated the Children's Museum in Baghdad. This project, unfortunately, could not proceed with its activities for security reasons. She further noted that UNESCO provided the Iraqi National Library and Archives with equipment as well as having trained two Iraqi experts on the conservation of manuscripts. UNESCO also supported the National Museum, the Institute of Melody, and the Baghdad School of Music and Ballet. Furthermore, and within the framework of intangible heritage, Ms Rivière noted with great satisfaction the inscription of the Iraqi Maqam on the list of "150 new masterpieces of oral and intangible heritage." In the spirit of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage, UNESCO is assisting the Iraqi Minister for Culture in updating the national register of living heritage in the country.

Ms Rivière concluded by highlighting UNESCO's serious preoccupation in terms of the maintenance and conservation of heritage sites in Iraq. She underlined three particular sites: Ashur, Hatra, and the archaeological city of Samarra, which are inscribed on the World Heritage List and the World Heritage in Danger List. She noted the considerable deterioration of the sites of Babylon and Ur as well as the reports the risk of collapse of the Mosul Dam, and stressed the responsibility of all to safeguard these sites.

PRESENTATION BY THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES

Mr Kamel Shiaa Abdullah, Advisor to the Ministry of Culture and Chairperson of the National Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Iraqi Cultural Heritage (NCC), noted that this meeting should accomplish a qualitative transformation of UNESCO's work inside Iraq and provide a new impetus to the international efforts made and initiatives taken to protect heritage in Iraq.

He also mentioned the accomplishments achieved during the period that followed the creation of ICC and maintained that the practical measures taken to protect some

antiquity sites and museum management training courses need to be maintained and further developed. Referring to libraries, archives, historic buildings and intangible heritage, Mr Shiaa considered that there has been an obvious failure, especially when comparing to what should be done. He called for cooperation between UNESCO and the Ministry in these areas.

To improve NCC's contribution, Mr Shiaa proposed the following recommendations: 1) include representatives from the Iraqi-Kurdistan region to achieve the necessary coordination; 2) raise awareness on the importance of antiquities and historic buildings and formulate a work plan involving the Ministries of Education, Higher Education, and Culture, and make use of UNESCO's experience; 3) ratify the 2003 and 2005 Conventions; and 4) define the principles and scope of the relations between the Ministry of Culture and UNESCO on the one hand, and independent cultural organizations working in the cultural field, on the other. He ended by underlining that these recommendations require special attention in order to, first of all, boost communication channels between the Ministry and the UNESCO Iraq Office in favour of implementing ICC recommendations; and second, in order to raise the level of coordination with the National Committee for Education and Science regarding the projects adopted by the Cultural Sector within the framework of ICC recommendations.

The session ended with the speech of Mr Mufid Jazairi, Chairperson of the Commission on Culture and Media to the Parliament, who noted the reasons for the inability to implement ICC recommendations after 2005 due to security and political instability. He also noted the importance of ratifying the UNESCO Conventions of 2003 and 2005. He further welcomed the idea of a roundtable for the Samarra project and noted the necessity to expedite the rehabilitation of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra taking into consideration the security concerns on the ground. Mr Jazairi expressed his satisfaction with the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Iraqi authorities in this respect, highlighting the role of this project in creating a favourable environment for national reconciliation.

3. HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Chairperson: Jaber Mohammad Abbas Al-Jaberi, Senior Deputy Minister of Culture.

Moderator: Mr Mufid Jazairi, Member of Parliament of Iraq

PRESENTATION BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

Mr Qaees Hussein Rashed Al-Magases (Director-General of Excavation and Investigation, Directorate at the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage - SBAH) was first to take the floor. He began by noting that the Excavation and Investigation Directorate's two major areas of responsibility are:

- 1) To investigate and inspect heritage sites in Iraq over 200 years old (pursuant to item 7 of Article 4 of Antiquities Law 55 of 2002). He added that this Directorate is responsible for the surveillance and observation of heritage sites and takes necessary measures to protect them. However Mr Al-Magases highlighted that the Directorate lacks human resources, in particular guards at the archeological sites. This shortage is also apparent in the insufficient number of management personnel. The Directorate also deals with legal action against infringers of Antiquity Law;
- 2) To carry out excavation missions, formulate their work plans and present the results of activities at the end of each year. It is worth mentioning that SBAH has currently 11 excavation missions working throughout the country.

Moreover it was mentioned that a new section in the Directorate, namely "The Remote Sensing Section", is being developed to prepare a database for all Iraqi heritage sites. This section is expected to operate on the GIS system.

He then explained the role of the ICC recommendations in the activities provided in terms of training and equipment.

He also stated that the major problems this Directorate is facing are related to the intrusion in the sites, including the ones by the MNF in Babylon, Samarra and Ur; lack of archeological awareness of the communities, the spread of unemployment pushing some people to illegally trade antiquities; lack of training courses, shortage

of modern equipment used in their field of work, lack of financial allocations dedicated to excavations, archeological surveys, investigation, inspection and finally the insufficient number of Iraqi archaeologists. To address all of the above-mentioned issues, Mr Al-Magases proposed following solutions: 1) the fencing of major archaeological sites such as Babylon, Ashur and others and building surveillance towers; 2) more training on the GIS system, to equip the Office with this tool and to activate work in the remote-sensing department and utilize this system in the field of investigation and excavation; 3) provide the Office with modern tools for archaeological survey works and excavations.

He further noted that SBAH is in the process of launching a new Directorate for the World Heritage Sites whose main task would be (a) to ensure the follow-up of the sites on the World Heritage List and World Heritage List in Danger; (b) the preparation of nomination files for Iraqi heritage sites to be submitted to the World Heritage Committee; (c) to regularly update the national Tentative List. He announced that new files have been recently prepared to be submitted first for the Tentative List and further for nomination. In particular, he mentioned the Al Kifl site. Mr Al-Magases ended by underlining the lack of capacity-building for the staff of cultural institutions in Iraq, as well as the shortage of equipment. He stated that the distribution of 4WD vehicles with satellite radios for all heritage sites around Iraq are needed for safeguarding the sites and, furthermore, noted that Security Forces have been allocated in all governorates in order to protect heritage sites and stop the illicit trafficking of antiquities. He stressed the importance of building capacities for 15 archaeologists on GPS & GIS and the database for heritage sites. He would also like to see more GPS units provided. He highlighted the problem of the city of Ashur, where the level of water of the Tigris is increasing and badly affecting the heritage sites' eastern side. He noted that the fencing of heritage sites is important in order to avoid illegal excavations. He ended his speech by reminding the audience that 24 machines are working on filling the foundations to prevent the collapse of the Mosul Dam and that the Ministry of Water Resources bears primary responsibility for this.

Ms Gouhar Shemdin (Advisor at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Kurdistan Regional Government), identified areas of actions for the Ministry of Tourism and the Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage, which have been operating on the model of central Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage. The work in progress is similar to the description by the Directorate of "Investigation and Excavations" under SBAH prepared for ICC including: inventory, restoring, conserving and maintaining of

architectural heritage over 200 years old, protecting the archeological sites and coordinating missions for excavations. She further explained the role ICC played in the activities provided, in terms of training and equipment, she particularly welcomed and congratulated UNESCO's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Kurdistan's Regional Government on the rehabilitation of the Arbil Citadel. She further noted that the region of Kurdistan is in need of capacity-building for historians, excavators, archaeologists and engineers to work on this project as well as for other projects. Ms Shemdin stressed the necessity to organize multi-disciplinary training that is much more useful for the participants. She also highlighted that such training should be standardized for the whole country. Ms Shemdin joined her voice to the urgent call for awareness on the importance of heritage, which should start at primary school. She finally stated that UNESCO's Iraq Office may help ICOMOS Iraq to widen its membership to spread awareness among professionals and create a forum for Iraqi conservationists to exchange expertise through ICOMOS scientific committees. In turn, these committees and their members could be involved in spreading awareness among bureaucrats and at the grassroots levels.

PRESENTATION BY UNESCO

Mr Mourad Zmit (Project Manager of Restoration of Al-Askari Shrine and revitalization of Arbil Citadel, UNESCO Iraq Office) reiterated the Iraqi Government's commitment to protect and to prepare the restoration of the Al Askari Shrine. He provided the audience with objectives, budgets, and duration of both projects. He also noted that two Memorandums of Understanding have been signed between UNESCO and the Iraqi Government in favor of the rehabilitation and restoration of these two sites.

PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF THE ICC

Prof. Ken Matsumoto (Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, Tokyo) presented and briefed the participants on the training courses conducted by JICA for Iraqis. He stressed that cultural heritage training was structured around four phases covering all aspects of an archaeological excavation, from the preparatory phase and techniques and methods of excavations, to conservation of the sites and unearth structures, to providing maintenance and management of the excavated site. Prof. Matsumoto mentioned all partners of this course funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) highlighting

that all training took place at Umm Qais archaeological site in northern Jordan with the kind authorization of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. He also mentioned the project conducted under the UNESCO Japanese FIT, aiming at both assisting the Conservation Laboratory of Iraqi National Museum through training in Japan, and procuring equipment. At the end of his presentation Prof. Masumoto suggested using the skilled team of Iraqi archaeologists trained within the above-mentioned programme, in particular for the urgently needed rescue excavations and mapping of archaeological sites within the marshlands of Mesopotamia area that are threatened by the rising water levels.

Dr John Curtis (representing the British Museum) reported on his mission to the Ur archaeological site early this year. In particular, he noted that the site is facing problems due to the proximity of the Coalition airbase that has fenced the perimeter of the site. He also mentioned that the visitor control center was built directly on top of a valuable archaeological structure that has never been excavated. Based on his mission, he insisted that the ICC recommendations include two extremely important points: (i) to request the Coalition to provide entrance permits to SBAH officials on the sites. He deemed this crucial in order for SBAH to carry out its responsibility for the conservation of the sites; (ii) to suggest that the military authorities seek advice from archaeological authorities whenever they will have to build a structure, particularly in the vicinity of an archaeological site.

Prof. Piotr Bielinski (Director, missions to Hamrin, Tell Rijm, Eski Mossul Dam project; Dean, Faculty of History, Warsaw University) noted the co-operation between the Polish and Iraqi Governments in the Diwaniya Governorate through the supplying of equipment to the archaeological mission in Marad and through scholarship programmes. He suggested that at least 10 archaeological sites in Diwaniya should have fences, watchtowers, and ought to be controlled by archaeological police. He also stressed that proper channels of communication among the different levels of Iraqi authorities should be further developed in order to avoid any misunderstanding and initiatives unknown to the central authorities in Baghdad. Prof. Bielinski continued by suggesting assistance for the replacement of Diwaniyah University's archaeological library collection that has disappeared. He also noted that he hoped for co-operation with JICA in the future.

Dr John Russell (Massachusetts College of Art) noted that the USA is funding three activities: (a) distribution of 20 vehicles (pick ups) equipped with radios (satellite

phones) to the heritage sites; (b) satellite imagery for the heritage sites, in particular to measure the looting in southern Iraq; (c) a major project for the site management of Babylon archaeological site. He also stressed that this included cooperation with Stony Brook University, as five Iraqis were sent to study and conduct Masters' research there. He concluded by highlighting the coordination role of ICC as a platform for information exchange in order to avoid any overlapping with activities provided by different partners. He also called for close cooperation and follow-up of various programmes based on the assessment of the impact of these activities by SBAH.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION BY PARTICIPANTS / OBSERVERS

Prof. Nouredinne Toualbi-Thaâlibi (Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, ISESCO) intervened to note ISESCO's contribution to the planning of international and, more precisely, Islamic organization assistance to the safeguarding of Iraqi cultural heritage by organizing a series of experts meetings in Syria and Jordan. He also mentioned ISESCO's commitments to continue its efforts in this direction and joined his voice to the appeal of UNESCO's Director-General for the coordination of all efforts in favour of Iraq's cultural heritage. He concluded by noting that they would like to join the International Coordination Committee as an Islamic Organization member.

Dr Gaetano Palumbo (representing both the World Monuments Fund (WMF) and the Getty Conservation Institute), noted the importance of raising awareness on Iraq's cultural heritage. He also stressed that the WMF is very interested in establishing a database for the heritage sites in danger. Finally, he stressed the importance of an index in English and Arabic for all heritage sites, objects, and antiquities.

Mr Zaki Aslan (ICCROM) noted ICCROM's main recent activities for Iraq: (a) 12 architects and civil engineers from Arbil and Baghdad were trained to work on the projects for the rehabilitation of Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra and the Arbil Citadel; (b) teaching courses through JICA programmes regarding archaeology; (c) a training course within the framework of the ATHAR programme. He also said that ICCROM still has funds for scholarships to be awarded to Iraqis. He further stressed the willingness of ICCROM, as a technical body for UNESCO, for future capacity-building through a strategy for training.

Dr Elizabeth Stone (Stony Brook University New York, USA) took the floor to propose a recommendation on the length of the training courses that should be considered for Iraqi experts. She stressed that, based on her experience and due to the security situation in Iraq, it should be recommended to provide long-term training that will be more useful and have greater impact.

Ms Gaia Jungeblodt (ICOMOS) recalled the importance of the ICOMOS National Committee for Iraq in the Safeguarding of the Iraqi Cultural Heritage and requested more cooperation between the Iraqi authorities on the one hand and UNESCO's Iraq Office and ICOMOS' National Committee on the other, so that the latter could play a more active role inside Iraq.

Mr Shiaa took the floor to propose following recommendations:

- 1- Establish a full inventory of the historical buildings in Iraq with a view to contributing to their maintenance and safeguarding;
- 2- Build capacities of Iraqi specialists enabling them to address the preparation of such an inventory.

Following the last point mentioned by Prof. Russel, Ambassador Muhi Al Khateeb (Iraqi Ambassador, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO), noted that he received a letter about the building of a police barracks on the heritage site in Samarra. A request for the removal of these barracks was sent to the Iraqi Prime Minister, but no response has been received.

Moreover, he noted that an agreement between the Iraqi Government and all relevant institutions should be signed to return all the stolen objects that have been seized outside Iraq.

Ms Françoise Rivière (ADG/CLT) summarized the discussion and proposed that recommendations be classified according to the party that will implement them. She proposed that there be recommendations for the Iraqi government, recommendations for the international community and recommendations for UNESCO, notably the World Heritage Centre. She noted that the important points to be included should be: (a) to organize long training courses rather than short, random courses; (b) to control

heritage sites remotely (c) to raise heritage awareness through a large-scale campaign for greater impact (d) to include cultural awareness within curricula.

4. MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL OBJECTS (WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF CULTURAL PROPERTY)

Moderator: Dr Roberto Parapetti, Director, Italian-Iraqi Centre for the Restoration of Monuments

PRESENTATION BY THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES

Ms. Ameera Idan Hlaihel (Acting Chairperson of SBAH and Director of the Iraqi National Museum) gave an overview of the administration and responsibilities layout of SBAH in general with all its directorates, which she praised for the good work they are doing despite the difficult circumstances, and further overviewed the situation of the museums in Iraq. She stressed that some require restoration while others need to be rebuilt. Some museums have been taken over by international forces. She noted that SBAH has managed to re-open part of the Kirkuk Museum, and that while some of the museums have been rehabilitated, they can not receive visitors. She also noted that SBAH has its own mechanism and measures in regard to illegal excavations and the same for retrieving Iraqi antiquities in and outside Iraq as now many Iraqi artefacts are found in other countries, both Arab and non-Arab. Finally she concluded by noting that the SBAH is working hard to firmly combat the looting, whether committed by individuals or official institutions, and to take legal action against them.

PRESENTATION BY UNESCO

Ms. Nayab Al-Dabbagh (UNESCO Iraq Office) presented ongoing and forthcoming projects such as the Rehabilitation of the Conservation Labs at the Iraqi National Museum, Management Enhancement and Capacity-Building in Museums of Iraq and the Kurdish Textile Museum in Arbil. The main objectives of these projects are rehabilitation, equipment and capacity-building. The implemented phases have been successful thanks to the close cooperation with Iraqi counterparts, international experts and specialized institutions.

PRESENTATION BY ICC MEMBERS

Dr Margareta Van Ess (Director of the German missions to Uruk), began her intervention by noting that continued efforts have been made to support Iraqi institutions in order to safeguard their cultural heritage. This has mainly consisted of providing equipment as well as training for the equipment. She noted that they have launched specialized programmes for scholars from different disciplines who have been invited to spend up to two months in Germany, and that several scholarships have also been awarded. She also noted that a scanner and storage equipment was given to SBAH; in addition training for the use of this material was under preparation. Finally, she said that in addition to the 11,000 books that were handed over to Baghdad University in order to help replace lost libraries, the replacement of archaeological publications continues.

Dr Fawaz Al Khraysheh (Director of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities) noted that in the period from 2003 to 2005 Jordan has tried to limit the illicit trafficking of Iraqi artifacts. Some 1,600 Iraqi objects were seized through 23 customs and borders operations. He noted that replicas were found among the seized objects. He stressed that an inventory of those seized pieces has been submitted to both UNESCO and SBAH. He stressed that they have co-operated with ICCROM, ALECSO, ISESCO, UNESCO, Japanese institutions, and other institutions and universities to organize trainings. He highlighted the importance of providing Iraq with assistance, training and expertise. He also noted that Jordan will maintain recuperated artefacts in safe keeping until Iraq requests their return. He ended his intervention by drawing attention to the fact that historic manuscripts should also be granted due attention and importance.

Dr Sultan Muhesen (Professor of Archaeology, Syria) stressed that many years are required to be able to repair the damage in Iraq. He mentioned the need for technical and political assistance. He noted that Syria is doing its utmost to prevent trafficking and will return any recuperated artifacts in due course. He suggested the creation of a centre as useful and necessary for the protection of Iraqi artifacts in Damascus with the participation of UNESCO. He proposed that UNESCO fund such an institution and that Iraqi and international experts be its keepers. He informed that Syria was willing to provide a detailed plan in consultation with Iraq.

Dr Roberto Parapetti (Italian-Iraqi Centre for the Restoration of Monuments – Baghdad), presented the work done so far by the Italian-Iraqi Centre for the Restoration of Monuments. He noted that the Scavi Centre of Torino made an inventory of Iraqi stolen objects and published a catalogue describing these objects. This was launched on the internet through the GIS system as a reference and a database for institutes. He presented the work done for the rehabilitation of the Iraq Museum and, in particular, for the reopening of the few halls displaying museum collections, which was delayed owing to security conditions. He noted that most Islamic objects were looted and that work is resuming now after a period of interruption. He expressed his hope that these halls will be inaugurated at the end of the year, if SBAH and the Iraqi authorities allow this to take place.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION BY PARTICIPANTS / OBSERVERS

Dr Andrea F. G. Raschèr (Cultural, Political & Legal Adviser, Switzerland), mentioned the 1954 Hague Convention, which indicates that during an armed conflict, even if it is internal, nations should protect and be responsible for their objects, historical buildings and heritage sites. Some of the nations have ratified this agreement. Iraq ratified the First Protocol in 1967, but has not ratified the Second Protocol. All dealers should be familiar with this international agreement. Each nation can decide how it will export its cultural heritage. He noted that it is necessary to combat illicit trafficking at the international level. National legislations of State Parties must be harmonized with this agreement. He recalled Antiquities Law 55, which stipulates that archaeological property belongs to the Iraqi state and can not belong to an individual. It can only be taken abroad to be exhibited in international museums for a limited period of time. This law aims to protect Iraqi heritage and applies only to objects inside Iraq. He maintained that international instruments are important [1954 Hague Convention, 1970 UNESCO Convention on illicit trafficking]. He proposed that legislation in Iraq be improved to comply with the 1970 Convention. He also recalled the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, which clearly stipulates that any stolen and/or illegally exported item must be returned. The operational actions he suggested were: (1) rapidly include Iraqi legislation in UNESCO's legislation database (2) standard-setting workshop to see how the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention can be ratified by Iraq and the national legislation improved (3) education of general public and closer international cooperation. Finally, he expressed the wish that UNESCO develop a plan for Mesopotamia.

Mr Jean-Pierre Jouanny (INTERPOL) noted that the most useful thing was the creation of a database, which includes 3,000 stolen pieces. Information on these objects was provided by Interpol Washington, Rome and the National Museum in Baghdad. He announced that Interpol is organizing an annual conference in France on Iraqi stolen objects. He noted that a list of Iraqi experts who can help with determining the authenticity and origin of artefacts is ready. It was prepared by UNESCO, which compiled a list of 100 experts who could be consulted in case any stolen object was found. The found objects were returned either voluntarily or seized by the American-Iraqi Forces, some of them were apprehended by Jordanian customs. The total number of objects found between 2004 and 2007 is 4,000. He noted that stolen objects were also found in various European countries, Lebanon, Turkey and Syria. A series of 86 stone pieces with Sumerian script were found in Italy; 18 pieces were found in Holland and were not returned to the Iraqi government due to lack of official papers. He believed that the problem faced now is that the staff of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, which has been trained, is either changing or leaving. He reminded the participants that the workshops organized by UNESCO in Amman were very useful, however, he added that they have received no follow-up information from the archaeologist trainees. He stressed the importance of information flow and awareness raising. Finally, he emphasized the importance of training especially for inventorying found objects.

The Turkish Delegation asked to intervene as it found the working document of the Iraqi Government unacceptable. In particular, it rejected the report by SBAH, page 2, paragraph 5, and stated that Turkey is not insensitive to illicit trafficking and is also a victim of illicit trafficking. Turkey is also suffering from the security situation in Iraq. At the end Turkish delegation reiterated Turkey's readiness to contribute to Iraq's well-being.

The Iranian Delegation also asked to intervene with similar concerns, and noted that Iran considers the language used as unacceptable in an official document. They also noted that it contains inaccurate statements and stated that Iran has done its best to cooperate. They requested the deletion of paragraph 5; otherwise they would launch an official protest calling for its exclusion.

Dr Elizabeth Stone (Stony Brook University, New York, USA.) noted that there was a huge wave of looting immediately before the war, with a decrease in the summer

after the war 'ended' and a second wave of looting at the end of 2003. She also stressed that there has been looting in areas that have never been excavated.

Ms Maria Kouroupas (Cultural Heritage Centre, US State Department) stated that a team of experts was sent to evaluate the situation of the Iraqi National Museum. The evaluation report will be sent to UNESCO and other concerned international cultural institutes. She also noted that the efforts of the State Department were initiated with the emergency provision of supplies to rebuild the Iraq Museum. Efforts focused on basic needs to maintain a minimum working environment; a thorough museum assessment of security, etc; work on the infrastructure of the museum building; training programme for the professional staff; assistance with their website. Pending is the issue of a conservation programme to train students. She recalled that museums in Iraq have partnered with US museums, and that the US State Department supported the publication of a 'red list' in cooperation with Interpol and ICOM. She stressed that all projects were undertaken in consultation with the cultural authorities of Iraq. She mentioned that the US State Department is foreseeing to host a workshop on the recovery of illicit artefacts in cooperation with UNESCO, Interpol, and the Iraqi authorities. She ended her intervention by reminding that UN Security Council Resolution 1483 requires that all Member States take steps in their respective countries to restrict the import of Iraqi artefacts. In the US, there is a restriction on the import of all Iraqi property.

Ms Jennifer Thévenot (International Council of Museums - ICOM) noted that a handbook was produced on managing museums in French, English and Arabic. She also noted that there will be a Museums Emergency Management Initiative to which Iraq will be invited.

Mr Jaber Mohammad Abbas Al-Jaberi replied to the comments of the Turkish and Iranian Delegations by noting that (i) Iraq seeks mutual respect and non-interference, (ii) that Iraq wishes to maintain fruitful relationship with its neighbours and the rest of the world; (iii) that many countries have helped with providing information on stolen artefacts as well as a list of artefacts found on their territory – Turkey and Iran have not. He noted that Iraq does not want to blame countries officially. He maintained that looting was somehow made possible, due to Iraq's border with Iran (1,200 km), and thus, Iraq calls for cooperation with its neighbors. He ended by stressing that if we respect and work together, then there is no reasons for complaints.

Ms Françoise Rivière assured the participants that the statements of Iran and Turkey as well as Iraq's response will be included in the minutes. She also noted that we have a number of tools at our disposal to prevent illicit trading.

The discussion continued with various interventions on the following points and recommendations:

1. Proposal for an international meeting on stolen Iraqi cultural property and means of recovery;
2. Request for recommendations to include the encouragement of neighbouring countries to help recover illicit goods;
3. Stepping up awareness of illicit goods;
4. The Iraqi Ambassador to UNESCO noted that Iraq is not in a position to retrieve the recovered goods, as Iraq cannot guarantee their safety
5. The creation of safe havens under the auspices of UNESCO for objects which have been recovered until Iraq can accept them back safely.

5. INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

Moderator: Dr Kamel Abdullah Shiaa, Chairperson NCC

PRESENTATION BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

Mr Kamel Abdullah Shiaa noted that Iraq had a rich musical heritage: music that accompanies religious rites, various festivals with traditional heritage music, songs from rural and urban regions, religious recitations, and songs for children. Therefore, music and songs are an important part of Iraq's intangible heritage. He noted that the role of the Centre for the Study of Traditional Music has, unfortunately, been limited due to the *in situ* context. He added that UNESCO has helped Iraq both spiritually and financially in safeguarding its oral traditions, by proclaiming the Iraqi Maqam as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, which needs to be safeguarded. He noted that the ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will provide Iraq with the necessary instruments to protect its rich intangible heritage. Namely, he stressed the need for a complete inventory of Iraq's oral traditions. In order for this to occur, he stated that recording equipment to do this *in situ* is needed. Moreover, he claimed the need to

rehabilitate the international music centre for traditional music, and that while UNESCO has helped so far in this, the Centre requires further modernization.

Mr Kanan Rashad Muhamad Al-Mufti (Ministry of Culture, Kurdistan Regional Government) expressed his gratitude for efforts made by UNESCO so far for two projects; Kahrez and Arbil Citadel. He noted that the previous regime in Iraq tried to destroy Kurdish heritage – for example in Arbil and Kirkuk Citadels, where many historical houses were destroyed. He expressed his wish that the citadel of Arbil be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Given that the Kurdistan region is enjoying relative peace, he asked for more programmes to be implemented in the region. He noted that the Ministry pays particular attention to theatre, popular and folkloric arts, the film industry, music, the promotion of the manufacturing of musical instruments, and cultural exchanges both within Iraq and abroad. He mentioned the fact that the Ministry of Culture had not been given the chance to participate in the previous ICC and regretted that UNESCO had not provided enough support to Kurdistan. Finally, he expressed the hope that UNESCO will speed up its efforts to establish a programme of action for the Ministry – notably with regard to training and a plan for theatres, libraries, archives, books and the translation of books in the Province of Kurdistan. He also expressed the hope that UNESCO will send a team of experts to the Province of Kurdistan in order to familiarize itself with its needs.

PRESENTATION BY UNESCO

Tamar Teneishvili (UNESCO Iraq Office) briefed the audience on the activities related to the promotion of Iraqi cultural heritage, as well as on the assistance provided to the Iraqi authorities for the ratification of the 2003 Convention. She ended by presenting UNESCO project “Healing through Music” that has been designed to resume the work of the Music and Ballet School of Baghdad - a unique cultural institution in the region for classical music and ballet education - by supplying musical instruments and organizing two summer and one winter sessions for the most talented students of the school in Amman.

At the closing of the session, it was recommended that the measures and procedures to ratify the 2003 Intangible Heritage Convention be accelerated. This is important for

the safeguarding intangible heritage, especially in the marshland areas in the south of Iraq.

6. LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Moderator: Mr Jean-Marie Arnoult

PRESENTATION BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

Mr Kamel Shiaa, on behalf of Dr Saad Eskander, began his presentation by stating that the liberalization of INLA's tasks and democratization of policy-making and implementation are at the heart of INLA's modernization program. He stressed that there is no more restriction or censorship on accessing both the library and the archival collections, and that radical administrative changes have been implemented by establishing two councils systems; (1) for the representatives of librarians and archivists. (2) for the heads of departments.

Special emphasis has been placed on developing human resources by (a) encouraging librarians and archivists to participate in continual training programmes; (b) injecting new young blood into INLA by employing young people; (c) acknowledging the vital role of women in the new INLA; (d) devoting special attention to the welfare of staff by providing transport as well as and purified and sterilized water, and the best furniture available in the market; and (e) introducing a system of moral and material incentives to raise staff morale.

It was mentioned that the library staff is following a self-sufficiency policy, as they are doing all the maintenance work inside the library by themselves.

INLA's main projects include: (1) The Construction of a Restoration Laboratory. In view of the considerable damage inflicted on the INLA archival collections, the construction of a restoration laboratory was an urgent necessity. The government of the Czech Republic funded restoration training and the setting up of a modern restoration laboratory. The local government of Tuscany also funded an advanced restoration training programme. Thus, the setting up of a restoration laboratory and the existence of qualified technicians have enabled the INLA to implement a programme to restore its water-damaged documents.

(2) The Reconstruction of the Micrographic Laboratory, The INLA Micrographic Laboratory was completely destroyed during the events of mid-April 2003. The INLA identified the reconstruction of the laboratory as another priority for its future disaster recovery plan. With the help of the Czech Ministry of Culture and the American

Genealogical Society, specialists will make several copies of the original collections and then deposit them in different secure places.

(3) The Construction of a Five-Store Repository & the Renovation of the Main Building. The renovation process of the INLA main building began late last year and will be completed at the end of this year. The Iraqi Ministry of Culture has decided to allocate funds for the construction of a new five-storey repository for the National Archives' collections.

(4) The Establishment of an IT Department. The creation of an electronic database lies at the heart of the modernization process. With financial assistance from the local government of Lombardi in Italy and the Japanese Government, an electronic database for the library and archival collections will be set up for the first time. Back-ups of the database and the reproduction of the collections are becoming an integrated part of the INLA recovery plan. INLA built its own website on which one can find the automated cataloging of the library and the archive collections.

(5) The Reconstruction of the Archival Collections. INLA has been unable to make any real progress to find missing documents, records, and rare books. It is aware that this requires the full support of the three branches of government: the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Meanwhile, INLA has been strengthening its archival collections by establishing contacts with some important foreign national libraries and national archives, to copy on microfilm and microfiche documents or rare books relating to Iraq's modern history, such as British Library, UK National Archives, INLA hopes to reach similar agreement with the national archives of the neighbouring countries, particularly Turkey and Iran.

(6) The renovation of Ibn al-Nadim Theatre to normalize the cultural situation by organizing various activities, plays and holding academic seminars.

The INLA has been aiming at expanding itself horizontally by implementing new large-scale projects including:

- The establishment of the Library of Pioneers (where researchers can find all the necessary information in various forms on those who played a distinctive role in the construction of modern Iraq). The project will help shape a common cultural memory for all Iraqis that can transcend regional, ethnic, religious and ideological boundaries.
- The construction of a five-storey building to accommodate the INLA's archival collections and Chemical laboratory.

- The construction of a digital library in collaboration with the LC. The principal aim is to save digital copies of the existing periodical collections, which are on the verge of total destruction.

PRESENTATION BY UNESCO

Ms Joie Springer began her presentation by expressing her appreciation of NLA's work, noting that the library 'blog' had helped enormously. She regretted that not all actions had been fully implemented in Iraq due to security reasons and that, therefore, UNESCO would continue its assistance over the next two years. She believed that UNESCO can offer support in the digitalization of libraries and archives. Finally, Ms. Springer said that since it had not been possible to organize a meeting for the sub-committee in 2006, there must be a re-scheduling of the meeting or, in the very least, a draft strategy to identify the most pressing needs.

PRESENTATION BY ICC MEMBERS

Mr Jean-Marie Arnoult (General Inspector of Libraries, France) began by recalling that the sub-committee on libraries and archives met in Amman in 2005 and made recommendations that were approved. Among the recommendations, focus was put on (a) reorganizing the networks of libraries and archives – it is important to do this groundwork so that the different departments are able to grow; (b) speeding up the digitalization of libraries and archives; (c) training – especially technical and scientific training at all levels; (d) the need to rebuilt, in some cases, entire library collections; (e) refurbishment/rebuilding of premises; and (f) set up inter-professional association for a 'book chain.'

He then presented the Iraqi-French cooperation and noted that archaeology is one of the most important sectors of co-operation between Iraq and France. He highlighted that the work that has been done has followed the needs as expressed by the Iraqi side following consultations with different local professionals and administrative representatives. He stressed that the work has focused on long-term training of technical professionals and specialists, individual visits, and projects of short and medium term. He noted that the collection of books for libraries and museums in Iraq is currently ongoing following the initiative of the Maison René-Ginouvès d'archéologie et d'ethnologie at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre.

Mr Arnoult ended his presentation by focusing on the forthcoming activities for 2008. He mentioned that several important actions regarding: (a) museums – training on restoring tablets; (b) libraries – continuing the education of cataloguing, preventive conservation of heritage documents, managing of collections and others). He also underlined that following an Iraqi request, a symposium on manuscripts (scientific study, treatment, cataloguing, restoring) is currently in the stages of preparation. Finally, he noted that a major exposition on Iraqi heritage at the Institut du monde arabe in Paris is being planned.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION BY PARTICIPANTS / OBSERVERS

Mr Kenneth Hall (International Council on Archives) supported the notion of reconvening the sub-committee so as to monitor and continue undertaking valuable work, considering that archives are de facto an integral part of heritage. He also said that administrative care and proper custody of archives are also to be considered. He noted that the programme on Saddam Hussein and Ba'ath Party records (between 1999 and 2003) run in Washington DC is an impressive initiative, which aims to establish a repository of these archives. He stated the need to ask where these documents are now, and under whose custody, reminding that these archives should be part of the Iraqi National Archive.

Ms Maria Kouroupas explained several programmes which have been undertaken with the support of the US State Department: (a) Library of Congress dispatched team to Baghdad to do a needs' assessment; (b) Library of Congress hosted Dr Eskander in Washington DC to establish further co-operation; and (c) the Ambassador's Fund of the State Department made a recent grant to the Iraqi National Library for climate control.

Mr René Teygeler (Consultancy and Research Cultural Heritage, The Netherlands) intervened to say that it is imperative that the Ba'ath Archives should return to Iraq. He added that even legally exported archives like the Iraqi Jewish Archive should return to Iraq. He suggested that it may be the time to separate national archives from national libraries.

Ms Ameera Idan Hlaihel responded that there seems to be some confusion as the department that deals with manuscripts is a totally independent department. She explained that the House of Manuscripts contains 48,000 pieces, which were

transferred to a shelter in the Karkh area before 2003. These were then moved to the Iraqi National Museum until a convenient place can be found. In short, the manuscripts which are in the Museum will remain there until a safe haven can be found. Finally, she noted that while UNESCO has helped in this domain, there is still a need for more equipment to safeguard these manuscripts.

Mr Jean-Marie Arnoult commented on the importance that staff be fully trained and that access to these collections be free – this would be an example of democracy. He also noted the importance of bilateral co-operation and coordination as it is difficult to know, at times, which institution is doing what.

Mr Jaber Mohammad Abbas Al-Jaberi intervened to say that in 1991 entire libraries were lost; as a result, private collections are sometimes richer than those found in libraries.

Mr Jean-Marie Arnoult suggested two recommendations: (1) for the Iraqi authorities and the international community to accelerate training; (2) for UNESCO: that the sub-committee meet as soon as possible to take stock of the situation and start setting up work programmes.

Mr Kenneth Hall noted that a great deal of archives has been damaged over the past 35 years, and that a well-trained team is needed to maintain the archives and safeguard them from further damage. He stressed that international collaboration is very important in providing assistance in this field. He noted that libraries should be accessible to everyone.

Mr Qaees Rashid highlighted that the former regime decided to ‘clean up’ the public libraries from all the books related to the opposition, thereby creating an inventory and records of all manuscripts. He also said that the library of SBAH also contains some very important and old manuscripts that have not been burnt or looted.

Mr Kamel Shiaa suggested that the recommendations be centered around:

- advocacy
- technical work
- awareness building

Ms. Françoise Rivière summed up the discussions by noting that two main preoccupations had been expressed: (1) that the time has come to distinguish more clearly between libraries and archives; and (2) the return of documents to libraries and archives.



THE

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**INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR
SAFEGUARDING OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF
IRAQ**

Third Plenary Session

(Paris, 13-14 November 2007)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Members of the ICC convened by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, at the Third Session of the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of the Iraqi Cultural Heritage, at UNESCO Headquarters on 13 and 14 November 2007,

Thanking the Director-General of UNESCO for calling the third session of the ICC,

Taking note of the achievements of the Government of Iraq, under the prevailing circumstances, in protecting and rehabilitating the Iraqi cultural heritage,

Recognizing the work done by the National Coordination Committee in Baghdad (NCC), as a counterpart of the ICC, and its efforts in implementing nationally the recommendations of the second ICC meeting,

Praising the heroic work of Iraq's State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, the sole organization in Iraq that is charged by law with protecting, preserving and studying

Iraq's rich tangible cultural heritage, as well as the efforts of all other cultural institutions in Iraq,

Acknowledging the experts' contributions made during the debates,

Stressing that UNESCO should continue to coordinate international contributions made for the purpose of protecting, conserving and promoting the Iraqi cultural heritage,

Considering the existing constraints for implementing activities on the ground,

Decide to establish a Sub-Committee for the protection and safeguard of the site of Babylon,

Decide to reactivate the Sub-Committee on Libraries and Archives,

Agree on the following recommendations:

1. ADVOCACY

Recommendations to the Iraqi authorities

- To inscribe cultural heritage as a priority on the national agenda, recognising its importance for the reconstruction of Iraq, social cohesion and peace building;
- To improve the coordination and communication among the various governmental institutions at national and local levels, and in particular between SBAH and local authorities;
- To obtain free access to archaeological sites for concerned experts authorized by SBAH in view of resuming research and preservation activities;

- To obtain that prior consultation with SBAH be undertaken before any installation, especially public works and military installations, is planned on or in the vicinity of the archaeological, heritage and cultural sites;
- To continue the process of separating the archives from libraries.

Recommendations to the international community and UNESCO:

- To call on all parties in Iraq, including government from the national to local levels and all international forces, to respect and support the mission, unity and integrity of SBAH and INLA;
- To inform the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the World Heritage sites of Iraq, based on the information provided by the Iraqi authorities or other sources (in particular Ashur and Samarra);

<h2>2. STANDARD SETTING</h2>

Recommendations to the Iraqi authorities to:

- Encourage the Iraqi authorities to ratify the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1999), notably by providing increased support to the intergovernmental mechanism and by intensifying the international cooperation for the restitution of illegally exported property;
- Encourage the Iraqi authorities to ratify the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995);
- Develop the Iraqi legislation for a still more efficient transformation of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, notably via revision and completion of administrative law (*illegally* exported cultural property becomes automatically *public property*, every *cultural property is in an official inventory*, administrative aid) and civil law (for *public property*, there

is no statute of limitation and no good faith acquisition and the claim action is *imprescriptible*);

- Encourage negotiation of bilateral agreements for the restitution of illicit cultural property with States which ratified the 1970 UNESCO Convention;
- Encourage the Iraqi authorities to ratify the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- To introduce rapidly the Iraqi legislation in the UNESCO Cultural Heritage National Laws Database;

Recommendations to the international community and UNESCO:

- To consider ratifying relevant international treaties and conventions such as:
 - The second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1999);
 - The UNIDROIT Convention of 1995 on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects;
 - The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- To consider developing the international legislation for a more efficient implementation of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, notably via revision and completion of administrative law and civil law;
- To facilitate an international import-ban restriction on transfer of ancient Iraqi cultural property, as requested by UN Security Council Resolution 1483, and to encourage all countries to keep the recovered items in established safe

havens, under the auspices of UNESCO and/or Iraqi diplomatic missions, in view of their restitution to Iraq when the adequate conditions are met;

- To encourage the implementation of the UNESCO-INTERPOL-ICOM Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects being offered for Sale over the Internet,
- To cooperate with INTERPOL and communicate details on the criminal individuals and networks involved in the illicit trafficking of Iraqi cultural objects and on the roads and destinations of cultural property.

3. AWARENESS RAISING

Recommendations to the Iraqi authorities:

- To integrate awareness materials on cultural heritage in the curriculum for both formal and informal education, using *inter alia* the World Heritage in Young Hands kit prepared by UNESCO;
- To develop a cultural heritage communication policy;
- Sensitization of the public at large, notably children and young people, to the importance of the cultural heritage.
- Alert the international community, in particular politics, art-market actors (antique dealers, collectors, auctions houses) acting notably on the Internet, as well as museums (curators, security staff, restaurateurs) to prevent from illicit trafficking of cultural property originating from Iraq.
- Improve the transmission of information about cultural property thefts, stolen or recovered objects to the Interpol General Secretariat for data entry and crime analysis purposes and creates a central collecting point (“safe havens”) for recovered items.

Recommendations to the international community and UNESCO:

- To alert the international community, in particular decision-makers, art-market participants (antique dealers, collectors, auction houses), present notably on the Internet, as well as museums staff on the responsibilities and penalties attached to illicit trafficking of cultural property originating from Iraq and to launch a one-year world awareness campaign to this end;
- To develop an awareness campaign at the regional level, specifically aimed at the law-enforcement agencies, in order to improve the control of circulation of cultural property at borders;

4. CAPACITY-BUILDING

Recommendations to the Iraqi authorities:

- Introduce rapidly the Iraqi legislation in the UNESCO Cultural Heritage National Laws Database.
- Organize a long-term training action aiming at providing sustainable capacities in the fight against illicit traffic:
 - a. capacity to ratify the above mentioned normative instruments,
 - b. capacity to develop national legislation on the administrative and private law levels (on the basis of law n° 55 of 2002 Qanun al-athar al-turath),
 - c. capacity to negotiate bilateral agreements on the restitution of illicitly trafficked cultural properties with the States parties to the 1970 UNESCO Convention,
 - d. capacity to use the UNESCO/WCO model export certificate as well as the Object ID standard form for the inventories.

- To establish an evidence-based national strategy for the development of the human resources in the field of cultural heritage preservation and management, that would serve as a framework for international assistance;
- To strengthen national legal capacities needed for an efficient action against illicit trafficking, in particular in applying international instruments and in using standardised tools for inventories (Object ID) and the UNESCO/WCO export certificates;

Recommendations for the international community and UNESCO:

- To favour, within such a framework, long and sustainable training programmes rather than short training sessions, in all fields covered by the ICC mandate;
- To harmonize survey tools and inventory standards and to facilitate their access by the Iraqi cultural heritage professionals so as to establish reliable documentation on archaeological sites, cultural objects and intangible heritage;
- Impose an international import-ban restriction on transfer of all ancient Iraqi cultural objects (more than 100 years old) and encourage all countries to keep all recovered items in safe place, in collaboration with local Iraqi diplomatic missions and under UNESCO auspices, in order to restitute them.
- Regularly check offers on the art market and the sales of cultural property over the Internet, and encourage the implementation of the UNESCO-INTERPOL-ICOM Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects being offered for Sale over the Internet,
- Cooperate with INTERPOL and communicate details on the criminal individuals and networks involved in the illicit trafficking of Iraqi cultural objects and on the roads and destinations of cultural property.

ANNEX 1



United Nations
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COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE COORDINATION POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL DE L'IRAQ

Third Plenary Session / Troisième session plénière

(Paris, 13-14 November 2007 / le 13-14 novembre 2007)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS /

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- H. E. Ms Odette Yao Yao, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate

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- Mr Francesco Follo, Permanent Observer to UNESCO

- Ms Florence Motte, Permanent Delegation

- Mr Francesco Baroni, Permanent Delegation

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- Ms Corinne Magail, Deputy Permanent Delegate

- Ms Joanna Radecker

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- Mr Deniz Barkan Umruk, 2nd Secretary of the Permanent Delegation

22. Permanent Delegation of the USA to UNESCO

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- Mr Sehreen Noor Ali, U.S. Permanent Delegation

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