FINAL RECOMMENDATION

We the participants of the “National Capacity-Building Workshop to Strengthen Capacities to Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects in Seychelles: Prevention, Cooperation, Restitution”, organized by the Seychelles Department of Culture, the International Council of Museums National Committee in Seychelles and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, which took place from 24 to 26 July 2019 in Mahe, Seychelles, strongly encourage the national authorities of the Republic of Seychelles to consider the following recommendations to strengthen the protection of cultural property on national, regional and international levels:

1) Update national legislation, policies and measures for the protection of cultural property in Seychelles in line with relevant international instruments and ensure their publication on the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws;


3) Develop a national inventory and database of cultural and natural property protected under the law and ensure high quality photos and descriptions (Object ID);

4) Involve the University of Seychelles and students in research and documentation necessary for the protection of cultural property;

5) Increase preventive measures recommended by the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer
of Ownership of Cultural Property; such as: Develop and issue Export certificates to be issued by the Ministry of Culture (based on the UNESCO-WCO model) and raise awareness of existing measures (ie: artisan object sticker/tag or coco de mer certificate);

6) Report stolen objects and ensure they are listed on national and INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art Database;

7) Form a national intergovernmental committee in Seychelles to oversee issues related to the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property; Ensure a wide range of stakeholders in such a committee (police, customs, Department of Culture, etc.) and the development of a National action plan for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property;

8) Add a new layer of responsibility to the national police force and custom agents to manage and conduct controls and investigations linked with the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution No.2347/2017 and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No.A/Res/73/130 of 13 December 2018 (article 17); and provide specialized training through relevant IGOs (WCO and INTERPOL);

9) Develop heritage education as part of national curriculum in order to raise awareness of the value of cultural heritage and its role in national identity, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development in order to ensure its protection;

10) Develop and offer specialized training to relevant national agencies to increase technical capacities for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in collaboration with relevant international agencies;

11) Initiate an awareness raising campaign on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property for both citizens and visitors (ie: banners and posters at the airport and other ports of entry/exit to the country), by working closely with relevant ministries, the media and schools (including UNESCO Clubs);
12) Strengthen regional and international cooperation for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, including through use of bilateral and regional agreements.

13) Use existing operational communication tools and resources in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, such as World Customs Organization’s “ARCHEO”, INTERPOL’s “I-24/7 Secure Network”.

We are personally committed to contributing to the implementation of these recommendations and sincerely thank the national authorities for taking them into consideration and ensuring that appropriate action is taken.

*Unanimously adopted on 26 July 2019 at the Coral Strand Hotel in Mahe, Seychelles.*