RECOMMENDATIONS

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION IN EASTERN AFRICA AND THE ADJACENT INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND STATES

18-19 July 2017

Moka, Republic of Mauritius

The participants of the Conference on strengthening synergies for cultural heritage protection in Eastern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Island States, which took place on 18 and 19 July 2017 in Moka, Mauritius, under the auspices of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and the Adjacent Indian Ocean Island States, and the Ministry of Arts and Culture of the Republic of Mauritius with the participation of Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Island States,

Acknowledging the generous reception and hospitality of the Republic of Mauritius, and thanks the Honorable Minister of Arts and Culture and the Honorable Minister for Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research for their support and engagement towards the success of this conference,

Bringing together representatives from 12 of the 13 countries of Eastern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Island States: Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda,

Submit the following recommendations:

1) Develop cultural indicators/statistics to demonstrate the impact of culture on sustainable and economic development

2) Raise awareness of cultural heritage values and their protection among all stakeholders (civil society, public and private sectors and financial partners), and engage them in the protection of cultural heritage with particular emphasis on youth and through the use of Heritage Protection Ambassadors
3) Enhance advocacy to ensure political will for cultural heritage protection in existing platforms such as the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), university and heritage networks, among others as well as through the creation of a regional Award for Best Practice and through bilateral and multilateral agreements.

4) Develop and enforce national Cultural Policy, Strategies and Action plans for heritage management and protection with the involvement of communities and other stakeholders, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the AU Vision 2063.

5) Develop and implement management plans, documentation and inventories for cultural heritage protection, which include Disaster Risk preparedness and take into account traditional knowledge systems.

6) Consider creating an independent common African Fund for the protection of cultural heritage in times of conflict and also in times of peace.

7) Prioritize capacity building in all fields and areas of cultural heritage protection and management including traditional knowledge systems; and optimize exchange of resources and partnerships.

8) Strengthen and sustain the capacity of existing Pan African heritage institutions, including the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), the International Council of African Museums (AFRICOM), the Ecole du patrimoine africain (EPA) and the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA).


10) Develop and use adequate monitoring tools for cultural heritage protection and management, as well as for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property; including the creation, development or updating of national inventories; creation of a national database of cultural property (museums, heritage sites, etc) and regular inputs into the Interpol Database of stolen Works of Art; as well as use of Heritage Impact Assessments for development projects.

***