Secretariat’s report on its activities
(June 2015 - May 2017)

Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
The Secretariat reports back to the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention, on the activities implemented since June 2015 and until May 2017, in accordance with Resolution 3.MSP6
• Between June 2015 and March 2017, 4 new States ratified the Convention: Austria, Ghana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Benin, thereby bringing the number of States Parties to 132.
RATIFICATIONS - 1995 UNIDROIT CONVENTION

37 States Parties

Blue = ratifications/accessions = 37 States
Yellow = signatures
FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR’S

• Pursuant to 38C/Resolution 101 on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO.

• Follow-up of the Recommendations by the External Auditor and described the measures undertaken by the Subsidiary Committee to improve its governance.
SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE CONVENTION AND THE OTHER UNESCO CULTURAL CONVENTIONS

- The chairs of the 6 UNESCO cultural Convention Committees debated on the future of the Organization's normative action facing contemporary challenges and emerging needs in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on 29 June 2015, during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn.

- The Secretariat also organized a meeting of the Bureaus of the Committees of the 1970 and 1954 Conventions, on 7 December 2015.

- The second meeting of the Chairpersons of UNESCO Culture Convention Committees was organized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee on 26 September 2016.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Since 2015, the Secretariat of the Convention has continued to provide regularly several trainings and capacity-building programmes, in all regions of the world, giving priority to Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and South-East Asia.
The “Natlaws” database, celebrated its tenth anniversary in November 2015. It provides the public with up-to-date multilingual practical and legal information directly and free of charge, making it possible to fight the looting, theft and illicit trafficking of cultural property more effectively.

The update, translations and publications relating to this database have been funded by the United States of America State Department since 2005, but this support will come to an end in July 2017.

It currently registered almost 3000 national cultural legislations from 189 countries. The statistics indicate that the page generates an average of 4,700 searches and 813,000 printouts per month.
WEB ALERTS IN THE EVENT OF THEFTS OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

- The 1970 Convention Secretariat receives daily requests from States Parties to publish international online alerts on stolen cultural property, thereby contributing to international awareness and cooperation efforts to facilitate their return to their country of origin, in compliance with Article 9 of the Convention.

- When the Secretariat is requested to do so, alerts are distributed to partners and published online.
The Secretariat is frequently contacted by States, individuals or associations requesting assistance in obtaining the return or restitution of cultural property.

- March 2015 - more than 60 Iraqi cultural treasures smuggled into the United States sent back to the Republic of Iraq.
- April 2015 - Canada returned a sculpture to India.
- July 2015 - Canada restituted a object to Lebanon.
- January 2016 - Canada restituted two objects to Bulgaria.
- June 2016 - French auction house Millon returned an object to Egypt.
- July 2016 - Egyptian embassy in London received eight objects presented for sale by the British auction house Bonhams.
COOPERATION WITH THE ART MARKET

- Christie’s, Sotheby’s, IADAA, CINOA, the Conseil des Ventes Volontaires, Drouot Auctions, the Syndicat National des Antiquaires, Artcurial, Bonhams, etc.

- Thanks to relationships established on various occasions, the Secretariat fostered early contact with the national authorities and auction house managers in order to obtain clarification regarding certain objects presented for sale and thereby enable their restitution, when possible.
EMERGENCY ACTIONS

• Due to the increasing attacks on cultural heritage, the Secretariat of the 1970 Convention is engaged in a large number of emergency actions, notably in Iraq, Libya, Mali and Syria.

• The United Nations Security Council also recalled the central role of UNESCO in international cooperation for the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict, upon the unanimous adoption of Resolution 2347 by the Security Council on 24 March 2017.
AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

- In accordance with a request from all States Parties to the 1970 Convention, a short video has been produced and disseminated via the Internet, promoting the Subsidiary Committee and its actions contributing to the fight against the trafficking of cultural property, based on video images and sequences provided by the Member States of the Committee.

- A regional awareness-raising campaign, funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), was undertaken in Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

- A project being undertaken in Central America funded by the AECID, a comprehensive public awareness-raising campaign is in progress.

- The Secretariat is joining forces with the tourism industry to raise awareness of travelers and the general public on the importance of sustainable tourism and the need to protect cultural heritage.
HUMAN RESOURCES

• The main duties of the Secretariat:
  ✓ Monitoring the implementation of the 1970 Convention and its management bodies.
  ✓ Providing support and technical expertise to the States Parties to the Convention at their request, in accordance with the programme and budget adopted by the General Conference.

• A Movable Heritage and Museums Section was created in May 2016.

• The Secretariat of the 1970 Convention currently consists of:
  ✓ A Chief of Section;
  ✓ A Programme specialist;
  ✓ An Associate Programme specialist;
  ✓ A young professional;
  ✓ An administrative assistant.
FINANCIAL RESOURCES

• For the 2016/2017 the Secretariat received:
  ✓ Regular programme: 1,798,500 USD (for activities conducted at the Headquarters and off-Headquarters), from this amount, 680,000 USD are to activities of the Headquarters.
  ✓ Extra budgetary resources: from September 2015 to September 2016, the implementation of the Convention by the Secretariat was largely permitted thanks to the support of a regional organization - the European Union, and several States Parties - China, Spain, the United States, Greece, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey.

• The Secretariat continues to encourage Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private partners and other stakeholders to make financial contributions to address the new challenges presented by the fight against illicit trafficking.
THE CONVENTION FUND

- Since the creation of the Fund, the Secretariat has received a single contribution, from the People's Republic of China, which generously contributed to the some of 65,000 USD in November 2016.
- The Fund has been used to enable a representative of the least developed countries to participate in the statutory meetings.
- Greece made an in-kind contribution for the organization of the informal working group of the Subsidiary Committee in Crete, from 10 to 13 March 2017.
Movable Heritage and Museums Section
1970 Convention Unit

www.unesco.org/culture/fr/illicittrafficking