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UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE 7 MSP

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Seventh session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV
20-21 June 2019

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda:

Report on the activities of the Secretariat

This document presents the Report of the Secretariat on its activities for the period May 2017 to June 2019.

Decision required: Paragraph 30

Introduction

1. The present document reports on the Secretariat's activities implemented between May 2017 and June 2019. It presents the achievements and challenges faced when implementing the programme designed in accordance with the following framework documents:
 - 39 C/5 Programme and Budget for Major Programme IV, Expected Result 4 and related performance indicators;
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets relevant to the Convention (in particular SDGs 11 and 14, see SDG's overview in Annex 1).
2. To provide a coherent presentation of the activities, the report highlights the relation between the achievements and the relevant performance indicators and targets of the approved 39 C/5 Programme and Budget and makes due reference to respective SDGs targets and indicators.
3. Annex 2 provides a table illustrating the links between the reporting framework of UNESCO's C/5 Programme, the SDGs targets and the 2001 Conventions main achievements between 2017 and 2019. Reflected activities have been carried out at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, and in the UNESCO Field Offices.

Statutory Meetings

4. The sixth session of the Meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention took place at UNESCO Headquarters from 30 to 31 May 2017. It was preceded by an Exchange Day focusing on SDGs and accompanied by an Evening Film Event (France), as well as a reception and photo exhibition (Cuba). In the session, States Parties noted with concern the staffing and budget constraints of the Secretariat. They elected six new members to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB), and approved seven Best Practices on Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH). They also adopted a new ratification and implementation strategy. The Chairperson of the Meeting appealed to the Secretariat of the UN-Convention on Oceans and Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), the UN Oceans Network and other stakeholders to enhance collaboration. The Meeting approved a technical mission of the STAB to Guatemala. Finally, it decided to review its rules of procedure.
5. The above meeting was directly followed on 1 June 2017 by the eighth meeting of its STAB, and a ninth meeting took place on 23 to 24 April 2018. In its eighth meeting the STAB requested that special attention be paid to the security of all STAB mission members and recommended some change of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of States Parties regarding the organization of the STAB. It also further developed the criteria for the evaluation of Best Practices. In its ninth meeting the STAB expressed its concern about the protection of the site of the wreck of the San José (1708), located off Cartagena de Indias (Colombia). It also encouraged States Parties to express their support for the protection of the Skerki Banks, a site located in international waters, namely the Exclusive Economic Zone of Tunisia. Finally, an Exchange Day preceding the ninth STAB meeting increased cooperation between the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO).

Ratifications

6. Since May 2017, five additional UNESCO Member States have ratified the 2001 Convention (Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Egypt, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Kuwait).

STAB Missions

7. *Nessebar, Bulgaria* (28 November to 3 December 2017): the World Heritage property "Ancient City of Nessebar" (Bulgaria) hosted an Advisory Mission invited by the Bulgarian authorities and carried out jointly by experts of the STAB and ICOMOS International (Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee). The experts assessed the state of conservation of the property, including the underwater archaeological remains, and provided capacity building for Bulgarian experts in coastal management and in the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments. They conducted an underwater survey and provided recommendations for additional research that may be needed to appraise the archaeological potential of the submerged setting of Nessebar and to assess measures to minimize impacts on the submerged remains, in line with Article 5 of the 2001 Convention.
8. *Lake Atitlan, Guatemala*: the sixth Meeting of States Parties approved by Resolution 10 / MSP 6 the request of Guatemala to send a STAB mission to Lake Atitlan to assess measures concerning the sunken temple island. Although Spain generously granted necessary funding, the missions has not yet been realized pending finalization of the terms of reference.

Regional and National Policy Meetings

9. UNESCO organized the following meetings to promote the ratification and implementation of the 2001 Convention on national and regional level:

a) Africa Regional Meeting, Grand Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire, June 2017

UNESCO organized jointly with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire a regional meeting for Africa. It emphasized the importance of ratifying the 2001 Convention and sought to enhance capacity. In addition to presentations by international experts on specific themes, a round table was organized on the status of underwater heritage in the participating countries. This activity contributed to the implementation of the flagship programme 5 of the operational strategy for Priority Africa.

b) Costa Rica National Meeting, San José, August 2017

As part of the project "Safeguarding Underwater Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean," funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and with support from the National Museum of Costa Rica, a national workshop in Costa Rica took place on the protection of UCH on 23 August 2017. Participants included the national authorities of Costa Rica, in charge of the ratification and implementation of the 2001 Convention, as well as archaeologists and representatives of the national tourism sector. In direct follow-up to the meeting, Costa Rica ratified the 2001 Convention.

c) Asia Regional Meeting, Makassar, Indonesia, September 2017

UNESCO and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, organized a joint regional conference from 19 to 20 September 2017, in Makassar, Indonesia. It aimed at strengthening the protection of underwater heritage in the Southeast Asian region and gathered key actors working in the field of underwater cultural heritage protection from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. The conference enhanced the understanding of the 2001 Convention, and supported the creation of a new research centre in Makassar.

d) Dominican Republic National Meeting, Santo Domingo, December 2017

UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic organized a National Workshop on the Protection of UCH in Santo Domingo on 7 December 2017 aiming to adopt a national action plan towards the ratification and implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention. It addressed primarily national authorities, clarified questions about ratification and showed the benefits of implementation. Two members of the STAB facilitated the discussion on scientific issues and the responsible authorities showed a strong commitment to ratifying.

e) San Salvador National Meeting, El Salvador, February 2018

A national meeting on the 2001 Convention took place in San Salvador (El Salvador) on 6 February 2018, organized by UNESCO and the Directorate of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the El Salvador Ministry of Culture. It was financed by Spain. The workshop, involving several ministries and national institutions, focused on the UCH in the country and sought to adopt a national action plan. It also discussed success stories in other countries in Central America.

f) Regional Workshop on UCH Protection, Copacabana, Bolivia, June 2018

The regional meeting organized in Bolivia gathered participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela and was funded by UNESCO and the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel). This meeting, organized in close cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Quito, Ecuador, promoted the ratification and implementation of the Convention as well as the access to UCH. A new museum project was considered.

g) Europe Regional Meeting, Zadar, Croatia, November 2018

On the occasion of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (UNESCO Category II Centre) held an international conference on the "Underwater Cultural Heritage in Europe today" from 25 to 26 October 2018 in Zadar, Croatia. The event was organized under the patronage of UNESCO and with the support of the Croatian Ministry of Culture to foster dialogue, exchange experience and ideas, promote sustainable cultural tourism, develop objective standards for interventions in historic environments and fight illicit trafficking of cultural assets.

h) SAMOA Pathway Event - Safeguarding UCH for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Sustainable Development, Apia, Samoa, November 2018

The side event on safeguarding UCH for sustainable development took place on 1 November 2018 at the Inter-regional Meeting for the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway (Apia, Samoa). The SAMOA Pathway supports SIDS to conserve their UCH and invites them to become parties to the 2001 Convention. The side event provided the SIDS delegates with updates on progress in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in respect to UCH safeguarding. This activity contributes to the implementation of the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan, in particular, priority 4, objective 2: Enhance the capacities of SIDS to safeguard their cultural and natural heritage, including marine and underwater cultural heritage.

i) West Africa Regional Meeting, Gorée, Senegal, January 2019

UNESCO, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Senegal, organized a regional meeting for African States on the island of Gorée on the protection of UCH, from 22 to 24 January 2019. This meeting brought ten African countries of the Atlantic coast together to develop common protection measures based on the three principles: (1) strengthening of existing legal provisions, (2) reinforcement of national capacity building and (3) promotion of regional cooperation.

j) East Africa Ministerial Meeting, Malindi, Kenya, March 2019

UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Heritage of Kenya, the National Commission for UNESCO, and the National Museums of Kenya, convened a series of meetings: (1) a Regional Ministerial Conference, (2) a technical workshop on the protection of UCH for sustainable tourism development in Eastern Africa and (3) a workshop on museums and underwater heritage in Malindi, Kenya. All of these contributed to mobilize ministers responsible for culture in the region, to increase their awareness about the Convention and to attract their interest in ratifying the 2001 Convention, to promote the establishment of national safeguarding measures, to strengthen synergies for UCH-protection in the region, and to enhance the potential of such heritage for the development of sustainable tourism.

k) GRULAC Regional Meeting, Panama City, Panama, March 2019

UNESCO in cooperation with the Panamanian authorities organized a regional meeting for 20 States of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) region. It was supported by Spain and assessed the follow-up undertaken by the States of the region in implementing the Lima Ministerial Declaration of 2013. It also followed up on the Panama STAB mission of 2015.

l) Caspian Sea Regional Meeting, Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2019

Seizing the opportunity of recent developments in the legal status of the Caspian Sea, UNESCO organized its first regional meeting in Almaty to promote the ratification of the 2001 Convention in the Caspian Sea region. It brought together representatives of nine countries neighbouring the Caspian Sea, and promoted the Convention as a major safeguarding tool.

10. The Secretariat has further participated in the following technical workshops and meetings on UCH protection:

a) China National Meeting, Hailing, China, November 2017

The international conference on “Discovery and Research on Nanhai I Shipwreck” took place in Hailing Island, China, sponsored by Chinese authorities. It focused on several topics relating to Underwater Archaeology in China and Asia.

b) UN Oceans Face-to-Face Meeting, UNESCO Headquarters, March 2018

UN-Oceans held its seventeenth face-to-face meeting upon invitation of the IOC-UNESCO at UNESCO Headquarters. The meeting was organized by the DOALOS and convened UN Ocean Members from different UN agencies, including Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Office for the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Secretariat of the 2001 Convention participated as member of the network.

Among others, the Chair recalled the decision of the UN General Assembly to proclaim the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030, in support of the 2030 Agenda. Members are held to jointly develop a plan of activities until 2020 under the leadership of IOC-UNESCO. In alignment with the decision, the ninth meeting of the STAB, recommended the implementation of supportive activities (see Resolution 7 / STAB 9). The National Museum of Denmark planned a first meeting for this purpose in May 2019.

c) International Workshop on UCH and Marine Scientific Research, Bodrum, Turkey, October 2018

UNESCO participated in the international workshop on “Legal Regime of Underwater Cultural Heritage and Marine Scientific Research” in Bodrum, Turkey. The Workshop was co-organized by the Turkish Ministry of Development, the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and the Center for Oceans Law and Policy (COLP) of the University of Virginia. The panellists provided expertise on the technical and legal aspects of UCH protection under the 2001 Convention. Discussions further focused on the implications for the marine scientific research in relation to UCH. The case of the Skerki Banks raised particular attention during the discussions.

d) *Regional Workshop on UCH Protection, Berlin, Germany, December 2018*

UNESCO participated in the regional workshop on the protection of UCH in Berlin, Germany. It was organized in the framework of the European Cultural Heritage Year at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, and UNESCO was invited to present the 2001 Convention and participate in the discussions on the protection of UCH and the ratification of the Convention.

e) *Workshop of the CONCHA Project at NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal, November 2018*

NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal, hosted the first workshop of the CONCHA-project, the acronym stands for Crossing Seas, Rising Islands, and Connecting People. The University’s UNESCO Chair for the Ocean’s Cultural Heritage, created in 2016, invited the Secretariat to the event. The partner institutions used the occasion to further develop their cooperation in terms of training activities.

f) *Two meetings on the protection of the submerged archaeological vestiges in international waters: the case of Skerki Banks (EEZ), February and May 2019*

Italy had notified UNESCO in early 2018 about on-going pillage and threats from industrial activities at the archaeological sites on Skerki Banks, located in the Tunisian Exclusive Economic Zone and on the Tunisian Continental Shelf in the Mediterranean Basin. Italy had thereby launched the process for international cooperation to protect UCH in international waters in accordance with the framework of the 2001 Convention. Tunisia welcomed the notification and agreed to assume the role of Coordinating State, as foreseen by the provisions of the Convention. Several States Parties to the Convention, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Italy, Morocco, Spain, and France, expressed their readiness to provide advice on how to ensure the effective protection of the site.

A first information meeting on the case was organized by Tunisia on 6 February 2019 at UNESCO Headquarters. A technical meeting on concrete protection measures and scientific research followed on 10 and 11 June 2019 in Tunisia. The case of the Skerki Banks sets an example for the protection of UCH-elements of importance to humanity, in international waters all by highlighting the legal and practical relevance of the 2001 Convention.

Awareness raising, Public Outreach and Capacity-building

11. The Secretariat has published the following technical documents and a promotional video:

- Technical Report on Underwater Cultural Heritage-related Legislation and Programme Review in the Five Countries in Micronesia, by Craig Forrest and Bill Jeffery, UNESCO: 2018, 143 pages. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366460>;

- Safeguarding Underwater Cultural Heritage in the Pacific: Report on Good Practice in the Protection and Management of World War II-related Underwater Cultural Heritage, Pacific Underwater Cultural Heritage Partnership (PUCHP) (eds.), UNESCO 2017, 112 pages, (supported by the Tokai University and the Heritage Emergency Fund at UNESCO);
 - Production of a short promotional video 'Cultural Identity of the Oceans', 1:28 min., published in 2017, (supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRgpDGJApWQ>;
 - A Legal Commentary on the 2001 Convention and a training manual on UCH protection for the GRULAC region in Spanish are currently under preparation.
12. **Data collection on UCH damage:** the Meeting of States Parties, in its sixth session, asked the Secretariat to collect, with the support of the STAB, data from the States Parties on damages of UCH caused by emergency situations owing to conflict, natural disasters, and climate change (see Resolution 8 / MSP 6). The Secretariat should present these data at the seventh session of the Meeting of States Parties together with measures proposed to strengthen the protection of UCH. However, thus far, the Secretariat has received only a small number of replies from the States Parties.
13. **Best Practices of Access:** the Meeting of States Parties approved seven examples of Best Practices of Access to UCH. More detailed justifications for the designation are under preparation. A special ceremony took place in December 2017 at the occasion of the designation as Best Practice of Access of the UCH Museum in Campeche, Mexico. The Secretariat participated both in the festivities and the accompanying Conference.
14. France, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain have submitted four new proposals for designation of "best practices" for consideration by the STAB.
15. **Website in Arabic and Chinese versions:** the Arabic version of the 2001 Convention's website has been developed with the support of the Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Foundation. The Chinese website has been updated thanks to the support of a trainee generously seconded from the Government of China.
16. **Promotional event:** the Secretariat has spearheaded the launching of the annual Dive for Peace Day globally promoting UCH protection. The event launched on 28 June 2014 and has taken place annually ever since proposing each time a diverse new programme of activities for the greater public;
17. **Capacity-building:** Two training workshops on the protection and research of UCH are planned to take place in 2019 in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mexico.

Outreach to the Scientific Community

18. **NGO Cooperation:** the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention organized the first meeting of the 15 accredited NGOs of the 2001 Convention in conjunction with the ninth meeting of the STAB (23 to 24 April 2018). Participants developed a set of joint actions to improve capacity building related to the protection of the UCH. A second meeting of accredited NGOs took place on 18 December 2018 at UNESCO Headquarters, also aiming at finding ways of how to improve the support to the implementation of the 2001 Convention through strengthened

collaboration with NGOs. A third meeting of NGOS will take place on 19 June 2019 during the international meeting on UCH in Brest, France. Four of the NGOs previously accredited have been proposed for re-accreditation and monitoring. The Meeting of States Parties will consider their cases.

19. **University Cooperation (UNITWIN):** Two UNITWIN network meetings were organized, in April 2017 and May 2018 at UNESCO Headquarters. Meetings gathered more than twenty universities specialized in UCH related training, As a result, the meetings brought forward a number of concrete project agreements and new members adhered. A third UNITWIN network meeting is planned to take place in June 2019, in parallel to the international meeting on UCH in Brest, France.
20. **International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA, Category II Centre):** The ICUA is located in Zadar, Croatia. It organized a regional meeting in November 2018 to promote the ratification of the 2001 Convention in the region. The centre's newly appointed Director, Mr Mladen Pešić, sought to leverage efforts and coordinate future activities establishing proactive and strategic communication with the Secretariat who assigned a liaison Programme Officer for this purpose.
21. **Two New Chairs for UCH:** UNESCO Chairs on UCH have been established at NOVA University (Lisbon, Portugal) and at Aix-Marseille University (France). Collaboration focuses on the provision of scientific assistance and on trainings. The French University assisted in the STAB mission to Nessebar, Bulgaria, in 2017 and the Portuguese University assisted African States in the research and protection of Portuguese shipwreck sites.

Culture and Sustainable Development Goals

22. The Secretariat is an active member of the UN Oceans Network and maintains close cooperation with the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) to contribute to the achievements of the SDGs.
23. In June 2017, at the UN Oceans Conference, at UN Headquarters in New York, USA, the STAB organized together with the Secretariat a side-event on the 2001 Convention and its contribution to the SDGs.
24. Another side event on Safeguarding UCH for Sustainable Development took place on 1 November 2018 at the Inter-regional Meeting for the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway in Apia, Samoa. As oceans represent an important element of identity and culture for SIDS, the SAMOA Pathway supports SIDS to conserve their UCH and invites SIDS to become parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the UCH. The side event focused on relations between the progress of the SAMOA Pathway and UCH-safeguarding and contributes to the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan, in particular, priority 4, objective 2: Enhance the capacities of SIDS to safeguard their cultural and natural heritage, including marine and underwater cultural heritage.
25. Other related initiatives include a UNESCO stand promoting the 2001 Convention at the Nairobi Blue Economy Conference in Kenya (November 2018) and the Secretariat's participation in the UN Oceans seventeenth face-to-face meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in March 2018.

Contributing to UNESCO's cross-cutting priorities

26. UNESCO's 39 C/5 Programme and Budget include several Global Priorities and priority target groups. A summary of how the Secretariat has contributed to these priorities is provided below.

- a) Global Priority Africa:** In line with the flagship programme 5 of the operational strategy for Priority Africa, the Secretariat has reinforced its action in Africa through a series of regional and ministerial meetings and training workshops organized in close collaboration with African institutions and Member States. Since 2017, three regional and ministerial meetings have taken place in Cote d'Ivoire (June 2017), Senegal (January 2019) and Kenya (March 2019) to promote the ratification and implementation of the 2001 Convention on national and regional level, and to strengthen capacity in the field of underwater archaeology and improve UCH protection in the region. Eleven African countries have so far ratified the Convention. Three more training activities are planned to take place in Kenya and Mozambique in 2019.
- b) Gender Equality:** Aligned with the UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014-2021 (GEAP II), gender equality has been sought whenever possible in the activities and meetings organized by UNESCO. In the field of underwater archaeology, female experts are still underrepresented and currently only two out of twelve members of the STAB are women. The Secretariat continues therefore to encourage wider participation of women in all aspects of its activities and meetings to contribute to the achievement of gender equality.
- c) Small Island Developing States (SIDS):** The Secretariat is strongly supporting SIDS in strengthening capacities for the protection and management of UCH in accordance with the 2001 Convention and the UNESCO Action Plan for SIDS (in particular, priority 4, objective 2: Enhance the capacities of SIDS to safeguard their cultural and natural heritage, including marine and underwater cultural heritage). Today, the GRULAC-region counts no less than eleven SIDS countries having ratified the Convention with the aim to better protect the submerged cultural heritage and sites. The Pacific UCH programme was launched at a first regional workshop in Salomon Islands in 2009. Following the SAMOA Pathway outcome of the International Conference on SIDS (Apia, Samoa, 2014), two reports on Safeguarding World War II-related UCH (2017) and a Report on the Review of UCH-related policy and programmes in the five countries in Micronesia (2018) have been published. In 2018, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) have become the first State Party to the 2001 Convention from the Pacific.
- d) Youth:** Youth engagement is a key component for enhancing awareness-raising and responsible access to UCH for sustainable development. In line with the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth, the Secretariat seeks to include youth components in its activities as a priority. It pursues to reach a young audience in particular through the use and production of audio-visual media, e.g. the promotional video. The National Consultation on the UCH in Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, FSM, March 2018) greatly enjoyed the active participation of many young people.
- e) Culture and conflict:** In accordance with the Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Secretariat ardently seeks to strengthen the ability of Member States to prevent the loss and damage to their UCH due to armed conflict. It did so by developing institutional and professional capacities for reinforced protection especially in concerned regions, such as through the regional meeting for the Arab States in Abu Dhabi/Sharjah (United Arab Emirates, January 2019). The Secretariat further strives to incorporate the protection of culture into peace-building processes by engaging with relevant stakeholders outside the culture domain, e.g. the UN Oceans Network, INTERPOL and other stakeholders. Moreover, the Secretariat have implemented a

variety of activities in peace education, focusing on UCH of World Wars I and II.

Human and Financial Resources of the Secretariat

27. Secretariat's staffing: in its Resolution 4 bis / MSP 6, the Meeting of States Parties requested "the Director-General to strengthen the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention by providing specialized and qualified personnel working exclusively for the 2001 Convention, and by the appointment, prior to the next Session of the Meeting of the States Parties, of at least two additional permanent staff members and the allocation of the necessary budget for the adequate fulfilment of the tasks and projects carried out by the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention". The Meeting also requested the Director-General to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the same session of the Meeting. Resolution 7 / MSP 6 strongly encouraged "Member States to provide qualified professionals available to the Secretariat (through secondments, as Associate Experts or other) in order to assist in promoting the ratification and national implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention". Currently, the Secretariat is composed of:

- a) 1 Director/Secretary;
- b) 2 professional staff;
- c) 1 general service staff; and
- d) 1 loaned personnel from Panama.

28. Funding: in its Resolution 7 / MSP 6 the Meeting of States Parties asked the States Parties to support the ratification of the UNESCO 2001 Convention by providing the Secretariat with extra budgetary and in-kind contributions. However, the global sum of funds received still lag behind the actual needs of the Secretariat.

- a) Extra-budgetary contributions in 2017 and 2018 amounted to:
 - 200,000 USD from Spain
 - 80,000 USD from the Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Foundation, Saudi Arabia
 - 34,130 USD from France
 - 92,650 USD from Belgium

29. The 'Underwater Cultural Heritage Fund' (special account) has been established to facilitate the collection of funds for activities related to the protection of UCH pursuant to the decision of the second Meeting of the States Parties in 2009 (see Resolution 8 / MSP 2). However, so far no voluntary contribution has been made to this account. The Fund aims at reinforcing the functioning of the Convention, international cooperation projects, capacities of the Secretariat, and other priority activities related to the 2001 Convention. It is essential that the States Parties support and provide voluntary contributions to activate the Fund and promote, inter alia, wider ratification and implementation of the Convention.

30. Taking into account the above report, the States Parties Meeting may wish to consider the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 5 / MSP 7

The Meeting of States Parties, at its seventh session,

1. Having examined document UCH/19/7.MSP/5 and its Annexes,

2. Takes note of the Secretariat's report on its activities for the period 2017 to 2019;
3. Thanks all involved States Parties for supporting the implementation of the 2001 Convention, in particular in regards to the protection of the UCH of the Skerki Bank and the initiatives from Tunisia and Italy, which enabled the very first application of the State Cooperation System provided under the 2001 Convention;
4. Encourages States Parties to express their support and readiness to cooperate in the protection of the Skerki Bank site;
5. Also encourages Tunisia and the Secretariat to share the experience of this case with other UN Agencies of the UN Oceans Network dealing with similar matters;
6. Notes with appreciation that States Parties have provided voluntary contributions, in-kind contributions and secondments, trainees or associate experts, to the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention, namely Spain, China and Panama; and
7. Calls for increased human and financial support to the Convention to ensure effectiveness implementation of the Convention.

Annex 1 –Overview of SDGs relevant to the 2001 Convention

Sustainable Development Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	
TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage</p>	<p>11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)</p>

Sustainable Development Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	
TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans</p>	<p>14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches</p>
<p>14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information</p>	<p>14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas</p>
<p>14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism</p>	<p>14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in Small Island Developing States, least developed countries and all countries</p>
<p>14.A Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States and least developed countries</p>	<p>14.A.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology</p>
<p>14.C Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want</p>	<p>14.C.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the UNCLOS, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources</p>

Annex 2 - Links between reporting frameworks: UNESCO's C/5 Programme, SDGs and Results of the Secretariat's activities (2017 to 2019)

C/5 Expected Result n°158: ER 4: Underwater Cultural Heritage identified, protected and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the wide ratification and effective implementation of the 2001 Convention				
ER 4 Performance Indicator	SDGs Targets	Assessed according to:	Baseline	Achievements/Results
Sound governance exercised through the implementation of strategic resolutions/decisions of the governing bodies of the 2001 Convention	11.4 14.2 14.7 14.A	- Decisions taken, providing strategic guidance for the implementation of the 2001 Convention - SIDS participate in governing bodies, bringing their concerns and objectives to the debates and into the resulting decisions		- Appropriate decisions and recommendations taken at the eighth and ninth STAB meeting in 2017 and 2018 - More than ten SIDS participated in each STAB meeting (further increase expected in following meetings)
Number of States Parties to the 2001 Convention increased, in particular in Africa and in SIDS	14.5 14.7 14.C	- Number of States Parties	58 of which ten in Africa and ten SIDS	- 61 State Parties, of which 11 in Africa and 12 SIDS - Regional and technical meetings organized targeting African countries and SIDS to enhance the promotion and ratification of the Convention - Side event on Safeguarding UCH for Sustainable Development organized at the Inter-regional Meeting of the SAMOA Pathway (Apia, Samoa, 30 October – 1 November 2018).
Number of supported Member States increased, which have taken steps towards designing or updating policies to protect underwater heritage towards the achievement of the objectives of the 2001 Convention	14.5 14.7	- National frameworks harmonized with the 2001 Convention - National policies harmonized in conformity with the Global Strategy - New or updated laws supporting effective implementation of the Convention	ten of which two in Africa and two SIDS	Several supported Member States took steps to harmonize their national laws and design and update policies to protect UCH in alignment with the 2001 Convention
Number of supported stakeholders, which have contributed to protection and awareness-raising, increased	14.2 14.A	- Level of State and non-State stakeholders' engagement - Youth education and responsible access initiatives, including underwater heritage - Awareness-raising initiatives launched	30	- 43 supported stakeholders (15 NGOs and 28 universities) - one UCH museum supported; one youth education tool and two publications developed - NGOs and UNITWIN meetings held annually to coordinate the work and advance research
Number of Member States increased, which have provided evidence towards relevant SDGs targets attainment (Only extra-budgetary)	All targets	- Number of Member States which have provided evidence towards relevant SDGs targets attainment		Work in progress