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Convention for the fight
against the illicit trafficking
of cultural property

7 SC

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**Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO Convention on
the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and
Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
(UNESCO, Paris, 1970)**

Seventh Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI
22 and 23 May 2019

Item 8d of the provisional agenda: Sensitization of the Youth

This document addresses the issue of sensitization of the youth on the problem of illicit trafficking of cultural property, one of the priority topics to be examined in this session as determined by Decision [6.SC 10](#) of the Subsidiary Committee at its Sixth Session

Draft Decision: Paragraph 24

Background

1. At the sixth session of the Subsidiary Committee of the 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 (UNESCO Headquarters, May 2018), the Subsidiary Committee convened by Decision [6.SC.10](#), that youth awareness-raising on the issue of illicit trafficking in cultural property would be included as a priority topic in the provisional agenda of its seventh session.
2. For the record, at the fifth session of the Subsidiary Committee (2017), the Secretariat prepared a document on the role of education in preventing illicit trafficking in cultural property ([C70/17/5.SC/5A Rev](#)) in which it was reported that several initiatives had been launched worldwide for local communities and youth, such as media and awareness-raising campaigns to combat trafficking in cultural property. By Decision [6.SC/10](#), the members of the Subsidiary Committee reaffirmed their conviction of the necessity to raise awareness among young people of the negative impact of the destruction and looting of cultural heritage and the importance of its protection to ensure promotion, protection and transmission to the next generation.
3. Cultural heritage is an important element for human development as a repository of identity, a driver of economic growth, a symbolic force for stability and a vector of meaning. It provides opportunities to meet the challenges of the complex contemporary world, marked by rapid societal and environmental changes. Cultural heritage is also an essential element of sustainable development and plays a central role in reconciliation and dialogue among peoples. Education in turn plays a fundamental role in this process of raising awareness among young people.
4. Articles 5, 10 and 17 of the 1970 Convention address the importance of education in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property. A dynamic educational programme must be developed and maintained in order to combat this trafficking, by targeting each generation of young people who will be the future decision-makers with the support of the relevant stakeholders, schools, universities and the community sector.
5. The initiatives mentioned below aim to comprehensively educate young people on the need to preserve their cultural heritage, with an emphasis on awareness-raising and the appreciation of movable heritage, so that they become conscious of the problem of combating illicit trafficking.

Examples of awareness-raising activities

6. Following Decision [5.SC 5A Rev](#), adopted at the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Committee in May 2017, the Secretariat of the 1970 Convention continued its awareness-raising activities and initiated several actions to promote the role of education in preventing illicit trafficking in cultural property. These activities have been made possible thanks to the generous extra-budgetary contribution of some Member States.
7. The project "[No to illicit trafficking in antiquities](#)" was initiated in May 2017 by the UNESCO Beirut Office in partnership with the Biladi Association and in collaboration with the Lebanese Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education. The project was launched at the National Museum of Beirut and brought together 1,500 Lebanese students and Syrian refugees aged 8 to 16 years from 35 public schools in Lebanon to discover their cultural heritage through field visits, workshops and group discussions. To make the theme of illicit trafficking in antiquities accessible to young people, interactive educational material was developed: cartoons, coloured drawings and a "puzzle" game. In order to ensure the sustainability of the project, workshops were organised by the history and civic education teachers of the schools concerned to train these students, in particular, in the use of the

educational materials developed with them through extracurricular activities. This project, which has been made accessible to a larger number of students, has become a real awareness campaign.

8. The UNESCO Islamabad Office, with the financial support of the Italian Government (AICS), has implemented a number of projects in the field of culture, with youth as a priority, which are aimed at raising awareness among young people of the need to safeguard their cultural heritage and to play an active role in the protection and preservation of heritage sites in their communities. The ultimate objective of this project is to enable these young people to actively contribute to the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of their community. To this end, the Islamabad Office has planned to develop modules and allocate material resources to enable schoolchildren to participate in curricular and extracurricular awareness-raising activities, as well as to involve teachers and teacher trainers in capacity-building workshops.
9. Another pilot project, led by the Islamabad Office and funded by the Swiss government, aims to strengthen communication between museums and young people. The project aims to contribute to the effective implementation of the 1970 Convention as well as to the implementation of the guiding principles of the 2015 UNESCO Recommendation concerning Museums and Collections. Overall, this is instrumental in strengthening museums' capacity to increase the number of visitors, and contributes to community engagement and the promotion of these museums as learning spaces. This project also plays a part in strengthening social cohesion.
10. UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States (Egypt, Sudan and Libya) is in the process of finalizing an animated video for young people in the Arab world.
11. As part of the third phase of the project "Engaging European art market actors in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property" in March 2019, the Secretariat in partnership with the European Union launched a massive open online course (MOOC), on a platform designed in collaboration with 360Learning. The purpose of this tool is to provide didactic and interactive content to enable art market professionals and the general public (including students in art history, art market, law and related fields) to better understand the international legal framework concerning illicit trafficking in cultural property, including the notion of due diligence.
12. In order to promote the inclusion of the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property in higher education programmes and research in this field, the Secretariat encouraged the creation of the UNITWIN network for the "Protection of Cultural Property against Illicit Trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa Region" (ProCult). The letter of agreement having been signed by all the universities of the UNITWIN network, the plan is to organize a first round table to launch ProCult towards the end of this year.

Future awareness initiatives

13. Raising young people's awareness of the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property is essential since they have a decisive role to play in safeguarding heritage, now and in the years to come. The Secretariat of the 1970 Convention is aware of this fact and is planning several initiatives.
14. ***Distribution of video clips within schools and universities:*** the fight against trafficking in cultural property is a complex subject which requires taking steps to raise public awareness, particularly among young people. The Secretariat of the 1970 Convention therefore considers it necessary to develop widespread awareness-raising campaigns within schools and universities to combat trafficking in cultural property. It is important that such campaigns are not limited to Internet channels alone, but that they directly reach the target audiences within their everyday environment. These campaigns could be

carried out in particular through the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), the Unitwin ProCult network, whose mission it is to include the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property in higher education and to promote related research and the associative network for youth.

15. **Youth Programme - Youth Forum:** The UNESCO Youth Programme aims to create an environment in which young women and men are able to exchange, debate and participate in the development of their societies. The Organization considers that young people should not only be the beneficiaries of the projects it undertakes, but that they should also be the actors, proposing solutions to the contemporary challenges they face. To achieve this goal, the Youth Forum Programme was launched in 1999. This Forum offers young women and men the opportunity to meet every two years at the UNESCO Headquarters to discuss the Organization's priority areas of intervention. At the end of their discussions, these young people are invited to submit conclusions and recommendations that are presented and discussed at the General Conference, thus enabling them to make their voices heard and to influence the programmatic decisions of Member States.
16. The Secretariat of the 1970 Convention is conscious of the need to raise awareness among young people of the problem of illicit trafficking in cultural property and would therefore like to propose that this issue be discussed at one of the forthcoming sessions of the Youth Forum.
17. **Global Citizenship Education (GCED):** GCED is one of the strategic areas of the UNESCO Education Sector programme. Its objective is to provide everyone, regardless of age, with the keys that are necessary to understand and resolve the major challenges facing the international community. Education is indeed a fundamental tool for promoting responsible global citizenship.
18. It is from this standpoint that every two years UNESCO organizes the World Forum on GCED, the main objective of which is to identify all the issues that could fall within the scope of GCED policy and practice. In addition, the Organization arranges special events at which policy makers, experts and practitioners are invited to identify effective strategies and practices for the implementation of GCED
19. Considering the magnitude of the problem of illicit trafficking in cultural property in our contemporary societies, the Secretariat of the 1970 Convention would like to invite the parties involved in the World Forum on GCED to take into consideration the challenges related to this subject. In this regard, the Secretariat of the 1970 Convention will explore the possibility of such inter-sectoral cooperation with colleagues to whom this pertains in the Education Sector.
20. The Secretariat of the 1970 Convention considers to undertake the creation of a new chapter in the Kit "*World Heritage in Young Hands*", devoted to the problem of illicit trafficking in cultural property. The kit, currently available in 37 languages, aims to include World Heritage in school curricula to address key topics in the classroom and during extracurricular activities. The kit consists of six chapters, ranging from the World Heritage Convention to the links between World Heritage and tourism. A chapter on the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property could be developed through extra-budgetary funding.
21. The Secretariat of the 1970 Convention would like to include in the future agenda of the *World Heritage Youth Forum* of the theme of raising awareness among young people of the illicit traffic in cultural property. The Forum would be organized alongside the sessions of the World Heritage Committee, and is an ideal platform to raise awareness among the younger generations and teachers of illicit trafficking, for example by including part of the

kit in its programme. Tailor-made methodological tools would be developed for this purpose through extra-budgetary funding. This forum would be an opportunity to discuss and apply new educational approaches.

22. Finally, Secretariat of the 1970 Convention will develop the integrated *heritage* education programme "*Learning through heritage: enhancing youth engagement*", in accordance with Target 7 of SDG 4. The objective of this program would be to improve learning outcomes in two stages:
- a) On a global scale, UNESCO would develop a "teacher resource kit" to integrate heritage in all its forms into education, including key concepts and methodological guidelines.
 - b) At the national level, pilot countries would adapt their resources in collaboration with teacher training institutions to suit their respective contexts.
23. This initiative is also planned within the framework of the Action Plan for the implementation of the "*Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural pluralism*". The implementation of this project is subject to extra-budgetary funding.

24. The Subsidiary Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 7.SC 8d

The Subsidiary Committee,

1. Having examined document C70/19/7.SC/8d,
2. Takes note of the many opportunities for educational and awareness-raising activities to be developed on the illicit trafficking of cultural property;
3. Encourages States Parties to share their good practices regarding the role of youth in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property;
4. Also encourages States Parties to increase youth awareness in schools, universities and community structures of the problem of illicit trafficking;
5. Invites the Secretariat to strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration with the Education Sector and the Human and Social Sciences Sector in order to raise awareness among young people of the problem of illicit trafficking through global citizenship education and the Youth Forum.