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**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, Paris, 1970)**

**Fourth session
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda: Report of the Secretariat on its activities

This document presents the report of the Secretariat on its activities undertaken from September 2015 to September 2016.

Decision required: paragraph 66

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretariat reports back to the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (hereafter referred to as “the 1970 Convention”) on activities implemented since September 2015 – the date of the Subsidiary Committee’s third session.

II. THE SECRETARIAT’S FUNCTIONS, STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

a. The Secretariat’s functions, structure and composition

2. The Secretariat’s main task consists in providing support and technical expertise to the States Parties to the Convention at their request, in accordance with the Programme and Budget approved by the General Conference.
3. A new Section for Movable Heritage and Museums was created, and a Chief of Section was appointed in May 2016.
4. The 1970 Convention Secretariat currently comprises four permanent staff members – the Chief of Section, a Programme Specialist, a Young Professional from Oman (arrived in June 2016) and a Secretarial Assistant, who are supported by four temporary members. An Associate Programme Specialist is currently being recruited. In addition, from mid July 2015 to end of December 2015, the Secretariat benefited from the secondment, as a consultant, of Ms M. Schneider, Senior Programme Officer at UNIDROIT.

b. Financial resources

5. For the 2016/2017 period, the Secretariat received a total of 1,798,500 USD from the regular programme to carry out activities at Headquarters and in the field. From this amount, 680,000 USD are allocated for activities at Headquarters.
6. Regarding extra budgetary resources, from September 2015 to September 2016, the implementation of the Convention by the Secretariat relied largely on the support of international Organisations (European Union), several States Parties (China, Greece, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Turkey) and external partners.
7. The Secretariat continues to encourage Member States, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, private partners and other stakeholders to provide financial support in order to address the new challenges posed by the fight against illicit trafficking, particularly in the context of armed conflict and illegal trade on the Internet.

III. SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE 1970 CONVENTION AND OTHER UNESCO CULTURAL CONVENTIONS

8. Following Decision 3.SC 4.3, the Secretariat organized a meeting between the Bureaus of the 1970 and 1954 Conventions Committees, on 7 December 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters. Participants exchanged information about the destruction of cultural heritage during armed conflict and the illicit trafficking of cultural property, specifically in Iraq and Syria, and on the organization of awareness-raising and training sessions for military, police forces and custom officials¹.
9. The second meeting of the Chairpersons of UNESCO Culture Convention Committees will be organized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee on 26 September², in order to strengthen synergies between the Culture Conventions.

IV. THE SECRETARIAT'S MAIN ACTIVITIES SINCE SEPTEMBER 2015

a. New ratifications

10. In January 2016, the Director-General and the Chair of the Subsidiary Committee addressed the non-party States to the 1970 Convention through a letter encouraging universal ratification of the Convention. The Director-General illustrated that, by ratifying the 1970 UNESCO Convention and applying its provisions, State parties can contribute to the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural property and terrorism financing, as highlighted by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 and 2253³.
11. Raising the number of ratifications of the 1970 Convention is a priority for the Secretariat, which is constantly making efforts to encourage States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention. From September 2015 to September 2016, two new States, namely Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ghana, have ratified the Convention bringing the number of States Parties to 131.

	Lao People's Democratic Republic	22/12/2015 ⁴
	Ghana	15/07/2015 ⁵

¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/subsidiary-committee/joint-bureaus-meeting/>

² For the outcomes of this meeting please refer to the agenda item 4 of the fourth Session of the Subsidiary Committee.

³ UNESCO Director-General letter ref. DG/4/16/0786.

⁴ Ratification instrument submission date. In accordance with Article 21 of the 1970 Convention, the ratification instrument for each State came into force three months after the submission date.

⁵ Ratification instrument submission date. In accordance with Article 21 of the 1970 Convention, the ratification instrument for each State came into force three months after the submission date.

12. Additionally, from September to December 2015 the Secretariat held discussions with 22 Permanent Delegations of States not yet parties to the 1970 and 1995 Conventions to encourage ratifications⁶.

b. National reports

13. By a letter, dated 23 March 2015, the Director-General of UNESCO invited the States Parties to the Convention to present their reports on the implementation of the Convention to the Organization by 25 June 2015 (deadline then extended to 25 July), in accordance with Article 16 of the 1970 Convention. By 31 July 2015, the Secretariat had only received 40 national reports. However, after 31 July 2015 17 other States sent their reports⁷. The Secretariat presented the highlights of these reports at the first meeting of the Informal Reflection Group, that took place in Delphi, Greece, from 3 to 5 June 2016⁸.
14. Furthermore, the national reports have been published on the Secretariat's website with the exception of 5 reports due to requests for confidentiality or because reports were not submitted in either of the UNESCO working languages.

c. Informal Reflection Group Meetings

15. In accordance with Decision 3.SC 9, the Secretariat facilitated the organization of two meetings of the Informal Reflection Group with financial support of China and Greece.
16. The first meeting took place in Delphi, Greece, from 3 to 5 June 2016 and focused on the following items:
 - outcomes of the 30 March Roundtable "The movement of cultural property in 2016: regulation, international cooperation and diligence of professionals for cultural heritage protection";
 - strengthening cooperation with art market professionals especially focused on online sales;
 - standardization of the return and restitution procedure of the cultural objects;
 - national reports on the implementation of the 1970 Convention.
17. The second meeting took place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on 4 July 2016, and discussed the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Procedure of the Committee, the periodic reporting tool and the issue of the protection and prevention of illicit trafficking of documentary heritage.

d. Implementation of emergency actions

i. Emergency actions

18. In view of the increasing number of attacks against cultural heritage, the Secretariat is involved in numerous emergency actions, notably in Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nepal, Syria and

⁶ Andorra; Brunei Darussalam; Burkina Faso; Congo ; Ethiopia; Ireland; Israel; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Latvia; Liberia; Malta; Mauritania; Palau; Republic of Indonesia; Republic of the Philippines; Saint Lucia; Malta; Thailand; United Arab Emirates; Yemen; Zimbabwe.

⁷ The following States Parties to the Convention have submitted their periodical report after 31 July 2015: Australia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Luxemburg, Morocco, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Tunisia, Uzbekistan.

⁸ Document C70/16/4.SC/4

Yemen - countries which require specific responses to effectively fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

19. UNESCO's contribution towards eliminating international terrorism focus on its efforts to curb cases of illicit trafficking of cultural property, used as a source of financing for terrorist and extremist groups. In that respect, UNESCO played a key role in the inclusion, in the UN Security Council Resolution 2199, of the prevention of trade in illegally removed cultural property from Iraq and Syria. Initiatives to support efforts were formalized in the Strategy⁹ for the reinforcement of UNESCO's actions for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of an armed conflict, adopted at the 38th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015.
20. Pursuant to the adoption of this Strategy, UNESCO held a series of capacity-building workshops, in cooperation, among others, with INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, UNODC and UNIDROIT, to train cultural heritage professionals, law enforcement authorities and custom officers from the countries concerned as well as neighbouring countries¹⁰.
21. Following the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2199, UNESCO was requested to submit a report in July 2015 to the UN Al-Qaida Sanctions Monitoring Team, which included, among other recommendations, a series of counter measures implemented by Member States to mitigate the financing of terrorism through trafficking of cultural objects. This report served as a basis for the recommendations of the Sanctions Monitoring Team addressed to the UN Security Council.
22. These recommendations¹¹, made public shortly after the Third Session of the Subsidiary Committee, highlight the 'world-wide moratorium' imposed by Resolution 2199 and the importance of practicing due diligence, as well as the application of already existing measures targeted at other types of revenue-generating activities such as oil smuggling. Such measures include assets freeze, eligibility of smugglers for designation and others mentioned in UN Security Council Resolution 2161.
23. The Director-General of UNESCO informed Member States of these recommendations on 11 January 2016¹² and called on them to report to UNESCO any information on the artefacts seized within their respective territories originating from Syria and/or Iraq. To ensure the effective implementation of Resolution 2199 at the International level, the Director-General convened, on 26 January 2016, a videoconference with the respective Heads of INTERPOL, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Customs Organization (WCO). UNODC undertook a similar initiative on 23 May 2016 in Vienna.
24. The videoconference served as an immediate follow-up to the recently adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 2253, which builds on Resolution 2199, and highlighted, among other points, the importance of developing strong relations with the private sector in countering the financing of terrorism and the laundering of the proceeds from this crime, as well as strengthening due diligence processes. In this regard, and

⁹ https://en.unesco.org/system/files/unesco_clt_strategy_en.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/> and <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/emergency-actions/iraq/>

¹¹ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/739 and http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/613

¹² letter CL 4144. Read more at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002432/243249e.pdf>

following Decision 3.SC 7 taken by the Subsidiary Committee at its last session, UNESCO organized a roundtable event with actors from the art market on 30 March 2016¹³.

25. In April 2016, the UN Sanctions Monitoring Team published two documents related to the implementation of Resolution 2199. Document S/2016/213¹⁴ reports on the main challenges encountered in the implementation of the Resolution including detailed analysis on illicit trafficking of cultural artefacts. Document S/2016/210¹⁵ is composed of the Recommendations of the Sanctions Monitoring Team to the UN Security Council on an effective follow-up at the international level. The Secretariat worked very closely with the Representatives of the UN Sanctions Monitoring Team for the preparation of these documents.
26. Paragraph 15 of Resolution 2253 calls upon Member States to take necessary measures to fulfil their obligation under paragraph 12 of Resolution 2199 and to report interdictions related to 'antiquities'. Thus, to strengthen efforts to gather pertinent information on measures adopted at the national level, UNESCO developed and sent a reporting tool to its Member States in May 2016. This tool aims at gathering information on Iraqi, Libyan, Syrian and Yemeni artefacts seized to facilitate their eventual safe return to their countries of origin, in the spirit of paragraph 17 of Resolution 2199. Despite the fact that Resolution 2253 does not directly refer to Libya and Yemen, and taking into account the fact that the Resolution's main objective is to suppress financing of terrorism with a special focus on ISIL, Al-Qaida and their associates, Member States should extend the application measures adopted in relation to Iraqi and Syrian cultural objects, to Libyan and Yemeni objects as well.
27. The lack of available and reliable information from the region limits the Secretariat's scope of action. In this regard, the Committee may wish to request the Member States to share information with UNESCO on a periodic basis concerning the measures adopted at national level for safeguarding the heritage at risk, with a special focus on the implementation of the UN Resolutions 2199 and 2253 as well as UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/281 (2015), and future Resolutions addressing the safeguarding of cultural heritage.
28. In 2016, three Expert Meetings under the banner "Protecting Cultural Heritage – an Imperative for Humanity: Acting together against the destruction and trafficking of cultural property by terrorist groups and organized crime", were held at UN Headquarters, co-organized by the Permanent Missions of Jordan and Italy to the United Nations, together with UNESCO, INTERPOL and UNODC:
 - 2 March 2016¹⁶ - The market and the import/destination of illegally trafficked cultural property;
 - 28 April 2016¹⁷ - Trafficking and transfer of illegally exported cultural property;
 - 27 May 2016¹⁸ - Destruction of Cultural Heritage & Trafficking and Illicit Transfer of Cultural Property – Source countries.

¹³ Read more at IV. i. "Cooperation with art market" pp. 12-13.

¹⁴ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/213

¹⁵ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/210

¹⁶ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/meetings/un-march-meeting/>

¹⁷ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/meetings/un-april-meeting/>

¹⁸ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/meetings/un-may-meeting/>

The outcomes of these meetings included, among others, recommendations on exercising due diligence on the search for provenance of cultural objects, strengthening border controls, training police and customs, raising awareness among local communities and the art market, and establishing administrative offences as well as preventive measures in the fight against trafficking of cultural property.

29. On 26 May 2016, UNESCO took part in an event organized by the International Organization of la Francophonie at UN Headquarters to mobilize francophone states to respond to the challenges facing cultural heritage today, and to highlight the urgency for the universal ratification of the 1970 Convention to effectively fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. Participants discussed measures to enhance international cooperation, to better protect cultural heritage against intentional destruction, and to fight more effectively against the smuggling of cultural property used as a source of funding for terrorist and extremist groups¹⁹.
30. UNESCO organized a series of expert meetings which resulted in the elaboration of Emergency Action Plans for the Safeguarding of Yemen²⁰ (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France, July 2015), Libya²¹ (Tunis, Tunisia, May 2016), and Syria²² (Berlin, Germany, June 2016). The meetings brought together national and international stakeholders to identify concrete actions to be undertaken by the concerned countries with technical support provided by UNESCO and its partners to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural property.
31. From 24 to 26 April 2016, UNESCO dispatched a Rapid Assessment Mission to the World Heritage Site of Palmyra and its Museum (Syria)²³ to identify emergency measures for the safeguarding of movable and immovable heritage including collections stored in the Museum.
32. On 9 and 10 June 2016, UNESCO organized, in partnership with the European Union and with the support of the Government of Flanders, a high-level meeting and technical conference in Brussels to underline the links between culture and international security and promote its integration in relevant policies²⁴.

ii. Unite4Heritage

33. The campaign '#Unite4Heritage' was launched by the Director-General of UNESCO in March 2015 at the University of Bagdad, Iraq, to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world and to raise awareness among young people of the value of cultural heritage and the necessity to protect it²⁵.
34. Within the framework of this campaign the Secretariat supported several initiatives:

¹⁹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/meetings/un-may-meeting/oif-event/>

²⁰ <http://en.unesco.org/news/emergency-action-plan-safeguarding-yemen-s-cultural-heritage-announced>

²¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/emergency-actions/libya/expert-meeting-2016/>

²² <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1505>

²³ http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_rapid_assessment_mission_to_palmyra

²⁴ <http://en.unesco.org/events/unite4heritage-cultural-diversity-under-attack-protecting-heritage-peace-high-level-meeting>

²⁵ <http://www.unite4heritage.org/>

- Production and dissemination of communication materials about the importance of safeguarding Iraq's cultural heritage as well as a 4 minute video highlighting the country's cultural diversity and heritage posted on YouTube²⁶, thanks to the generous contribution of the Norwegian government;
- Organization of the exhibition 'Palmyra en Villa Ocampo', the opening of which took place on 27 April 2016 in Villa Ocampo, Argentina, to raise awareness in Latin America on the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria, using the emblematic example of Palmyra²⁷;
- On-going production of a video clip on illicit trafficking on Syrian cultural property and its destruction caused by terrorist organisations produced by the UNESCO Office in Beirut with European Union funds;
- Patronage of and participation in two concerts performed in Paris (8 and 16 June 2016) by the Chœur Philharmonique international and dissemination of communication materials²⁸;
- Organization of a "#Unite4Heritage workshop' on 17 May 2016 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, to raise the awareness among museum professionals from Uzbekistan. The workshop also aimed at discussing possible joint activities between UNESCO and Uzbek museums in the framework of the campaign, with a special focus on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property.

e. Capacity-building

35. The Secretariat is closely cooperating with the UNESCO field Offices to implement training and capacity-building programmes in all parts of the world. Thus, during the period under scrutiny (September 2015 – September 2016), 16 training workshops were held, involving over 600 participants representing 33 different countries.

i. Europe

36. Rome, Italy, 23 to 27 November 2015: a training workshop on the fight against illicit trafficking on cultural property for Albanian stakeholders was organized by the UNESCO Venice Office and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness and develop professional capacities of the concerned services of the Government of Albania for the implementation of relevant international standards, tools and best practices²⁹. The next training session will take place in November 2016 for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

ii. Asia and the Pacific

37. From September 2015 to September 2016 four workshops were organized in Asia and the Pacific:

²⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGZ241XBIDY>

²⁷ http://www.unesco.org/new/es/office-in-montevideo/about-this-office/single-view/news/the_lion_of_al_side_palmyra_syria_in_the_heart_of_villa_ocampo/

²⁸ <http://www.lechoeurcpi.fr/actualites/le-requiem-de-dvorak/>

²⁹ http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice/about-this-office/single-view/news/strengthening_albanias_capacity_to_combat_and_prevent_the_illicit_traffic_of_cultural_property/#.V3lxT9HVzGi

- Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 15-17 December 2015: a training workshop on building capacities on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects was organised by UNESCO Office in Ha Noi, at the Viet Nam National History Museum, with the financial support of the Netherlands. The workshop provided necessary guidance for the ratification of the 1970 and 1995 Conventions and highlighted actions to take to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property in Southeast Asia³⁰.
- Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 17–19 May 2016: a conference entitled “Education in Museums: New Global and National Strategies in the 21st century” was organized by the UNESCO Office in Tashkent in coordination with the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan. The conference included a session on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property aimed at building the capacities of museum professionals.
- Jakarta, Indonesia, 12-14 August 2016: UNESCO Office in Jakarta, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, organized a symposium to marshal efforts to combat the illicit trade in cultural heritage in Southeast Asia and to support the Government of Indonesia to ratify and implement the 1970 and the UNIDROIT Conventions as the two major international frameworks aimed at combating the trade in stolen and illicitly exported cultural artefacts..

iii. Latin America and the Caribbean

38. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 16-20 May 2016: Argentinian authorities and police forces, with the technical support of UNESCO Office of Montevideo, organized a workshop on the protection of cultural heritage in the Latin America region focussing on the UNESCO 1970 and UNIDROIT 1995 Conventions³¹.
39. In May 2016, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the UNESCO Field Offices in San José, Guatemala and Havana, launched a regional project to strengthen national capacities on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property and the promotion of its restitution in Central America. The project is funded thanks to the generous contribution of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and focuses on the development of human and institutional preventive capacities at the national level, the strengthening of national and sub-regional cooperation and the raising of awareness among the general public.

iv. Africa

40. From September 2015 to September 2016, two main workshops were organized in the Africa Region. Several other activities on the protection of cultural property and on the fight against the illicit trafficking were organized by Field Offices:
 - Soudan, 16-18 February 2016: a workshop named “Cultural heritage in the eyes of children and youth” was held in Soudan. The goal of this activity was to involve youth and community in cultural property protection to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property;

³⁰ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/capacity-building/asia-and-the-pacific/vietnam-2015/>

³¹ http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Comunicado_Proteccion_Patrimonio_Cultural.pdf (available in Spanish only).

- Lomé, Togo, 6-7 June 2016: the UNESCO field Office of Abuja organized a workshop on the importance of the ratification of the UNESCO 1970 Convention in Togo and Benin. The workshop brought together 25 participants, of which 15 from Togo and 10 from Benin, to develop a joint strategic plan to fight against illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property in Benin and Togo.

v. Arab region

41. From September 2015 to September 2016, seven workshops were organized in the Arab region:

- Beirut, Lebanon, 30 November to 2 December 2015: in the framework of the “Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage” project funded by the European Union, UNESCO dedicated a three-day event to the fight against illicit trafficking and restitution of cultural property in Syria, including stakeholders’ engagement and cooperation, international legal framework, preventive measures to facilitate return and restitution of cultural objects, as well as on four case-studies from Northern Syria, Raqqa Museum, Der Attieh and Ma’aloula³²;
- Beirut, Lebanon, 2-4 December 2015: in conjunction with the #unite4heritage campaign, UNESCO Office in Beirut, the European Union and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), organized a national seminar promoting the use of the tools developed by international organizations, in view of a better implementation of the 1970 Convention³³;
- Morocco, Errachidia 17-18 March³⁴, Marrakech 7-8 April³⁵, Tangier 5-6 May and Fez 19-20 May 2016: the UNESCO Rabbat Office and the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco, with the support of the AECID, organized four national workshops of awareness and information on the fight against illicit trafficking on cultural property of Morocco. With the aim to train future trainers on this matter, workshops were focused on international Conventions in the field of looting of cultural property, as well as on legal and administrative procedures related to the smuggling of antiquities.
- Tunis, Tunisia, 9-11 May 2016: a three-day international expert meeting on “Safeguarding Libyan Cultural Heritage” was held in Tunis on the preservation of cultural heritage in Libya. The workshop was organized by UNESCO and ICCROM with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Libya and in close cooperation with the Department of Antiquities of Libya and several Libyan institutions³⁶.

³² http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/single-view/news/workshop_on_the_fight_against_illicit_trafficking_of_cultural_property_and_its_restitution_in_syria#.V3l0gdHVzGg

³³ http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/single-view/news/security_policy_and_law_during_the_national_seminar_on_illicit_trafficking_of_cultural_property#.V3l0w9HVzGg

³⁴ http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/rabat/about-the-office/single-view/news/projet_de_formation_de_formateurs_sur_la_lutte_contre_le_trafic_illicite_des_biens_culturels_au_marrakech-1#.V3l1ktHVzGg

³⁵ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/capacity-building/arab-states/marrakech-2016/>

³⁶ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/emergency-actions/libya/expert-meeting-2016/>

- Berlin, Germany, 2-4 June 2016: a two-day international expert meeting to assess the damage to cultural heritage sites in Syria, develop methodologies and define priority emergency safeguarding measures for the country's heritage was organized by UNESCO and Germany. The meeting was attended by 230 Syrian and international experts. Preventing the illicit trafficking of Syrian cultural property was a focus of the conference where experts agreed on preparing of a list of looted objects in order to alert the international community by publicizing relevant information.

f. Institutional cooperation

42. As mentioned in Recommendations 22 and 25 of the IOS Evaluation Report³⁷, it is vital to continue dialogue with partners and research institutions in order to promote a complementary approach to activities. Cooperation is constantly being strengthened between UNESCO and INTERPOL, UNIDROIT, WCO, UNODC, which have participated in main activities organized by UNESCO and vice versa³⁸.
43. The Secretariat has also continued to cooperate with: European Union³⁹, Council of Europe, ICOM, ICCROM, ICOMOS, SMT, FATF, the German *Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz* (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) and the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)⁴⁰.
44. Furthermore, the Secretariat is working in collaboration with specialized national police corps such as the Italian Carabinieri Headquarters for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (TPC), the Central Office for the fight against the trafficking of cultural property (OCBC, France) and the Guardia Civil (Spain)⁴¹.
45. These organizations regularly exchange information on the theft and illicit export of cultural property across the world as well as on restitution modalities. This cooperation is producing tangible results such as the creation of extremely active professional networks, the regular restitution of cultural goods and improvements in the legal and practical frameworks to fight against looting and illicit transfer of cultural property.

g. Awareness-raising activities

46. In accordance with Decision 3.SC 4.11, the Secretariat has requested all States Parties to the 1970 Convention to provide footages and material in order to produce a short video on actions to combating trafficking in cultural property. The video, under development, will be broadcast on UNESCO's website.

i. Awareness-raising regional campaign for Central America

47. In the framework of the above-mentioned project in Central America financed by the AECID, a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign is being conducted. Different materials will be produced and distributed via different channels (audiovisual,

³⁷ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226931E.pdf>

³⁸ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/partnerships/intergovernmental-organizations/>

³⁹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/partnerships/european-union/>

⁴⁰ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/partnerships/non-governmental-organizations/>

⁴¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/partnerships/specialized-police-forces/>

radiophonic and print). A number of activities will be developed to raise awareness of students on the issue of trafficking of cultural heritage.

ii. Awareness-raising tools for tourists

48. The Secretariat is joining forces with the tourism industry in order to raise awareness among travellers and the general public on the importance of sustainable tourism and the need to protect cultural heritage. In this regard, the Secretariat implemented the following activities:

- In the framework of the agreement with the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (SPK) signed in May 2015⁴², the Secretariat has started an awareness raising campaign in the National Museums in Berlin (including the Pergamon Museum) concerning the fight against the illicit trade of artefacts from Iraq and Syria. The campaign focuses on the dissemination of awareness-raising materials for the general public;
- In November 2015, the travel guide book “Lonely Planet France”⁴³, published on their website a text warning tourists on the risks of illicit trafficking in cultural property. An article will soon be included in the hardcopy versions of the travel guides of countries where movable cultural property is particularly at risk;
- Following Decision 3.SC 4.9, several video-clips on the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property have been disseminated in airports and travel hubs around the world through XL screens, for instance in the International Airport of Kutaisi, Georgia⁴⁴;
- Following Decision 3.SC 4.10, the Secretariat produced 13 new awareness-raising video clips representing different countries and regions across the world on the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property to be broadcast on UNESCO’s website and in travel hubs;
- Follow up of the campaign with the Colbert Committee: UNESCO in collaboration with the Colbert Committee launched a new joint awareness-raising campaign on the value of heritage and creativity from 15 June to 15 August 2016 in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia (Spain).

h. Practical tools

i. 1970 Convention Website

49. Based on previous Decisions (2.SC/4/5b)⁴⁵, and Recommendations (18 and 24 of the IOS Evaluation Report), the Secretariat of the 1970 Convention continues to improve and regularly update the Convention website.
50. Efforts to familiarise States Parties with this site and to encourage them to use it as a forum for sharing and managing information have proved to be successful as reflected

⁴² <https://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en.html>

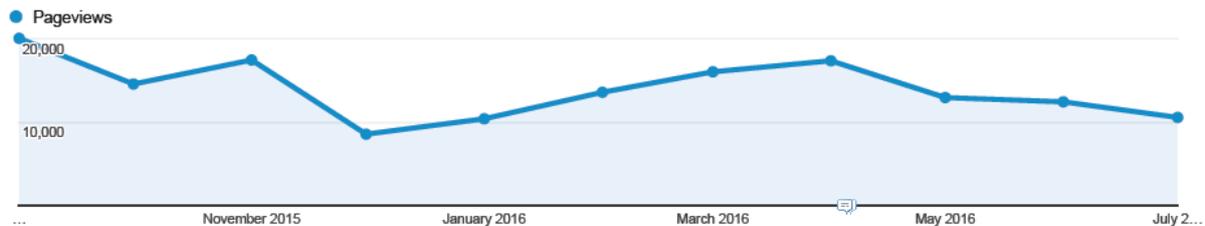
⁴³ <http://www.lonelyplanet.fr/article/nemportez-pas-le-patrimoine-des-autres-dans-vos-bagages-1>

⁴⁴ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/awareness-raising-initiatives/georgia-good-practice/>

⁴⁵ Adopted during the second session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention.

by the increasing number of alerts of stolen objects⁴⁶ and cases of return/restitution⁴⁷ published on the 1970 Convention webpages.

51. During the period under scrutiny, the 1970 Convention Website recorded over 150,000 web pages visited, more than double the number of pages during the last reporting cycle. Most of the site visitors were searching for general information on the Convention, States Parties and statutory meetings followed closely by web pages relating to emergency actions, legal and practical instruments and UNESCO's Database on National Cultural Heritage Laws.



ii. UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws⁴⁸

52. Based on Decision 2.SC 4/5b and Recommendation 16 of the IOS Evaluation Report, the Secretariat continues to develop the “Natlaws” database by extending legislation coverage and the availability of translations.
53. It currently comprises 2,829 national cultural laws from 188 countries⁴⁹. Since September 2015, 64 texts have been added by 23 different States (Mexico, Norway, Indonesia, Libya, Colombia, USA, Congo, Switzerland, Mongolia, Myanmar, Hungary, Eritrea, Jordan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mongolia, Spain, Malta, Netherlands, Iceland, Luxembourg, Romania, and Yemen). All of these texts are available online⁵⁰.
54. Statistics show that the page generates 4,700 searches and 570,000 print-outs per month, on average⁵¹.

iii. Web alerts in the event of theft of cultural property

55. The 1970 Convention Secretariat receives regular requests from States to publish international online alerts on stolen cultural property, thereby contributing to international cooperation efforts to facilitate their return to their the country of origin. Accordingly,

⁴⁶ International alerts - <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/international-alerts/>

⁴⁷ Cases of restitution using the 1970 Convention - <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/recent-restitution-cases-of-cultural-objects-using-the-1970-convention/>

Other cases of return/restitution - <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/other-cases-of-return-or-restitution-of-cultural-objects/>

⁴⁸The States are invited to officially provide UNESCO with information in an electronic format (USB key, CD-ROM or e-mail), accompanied by an official written authorization from the competent national authority allowing UNESCO to photocopy the legislation and exporting and/or importing certificates on its web site and to establish a link between the web site and the official national site unless it is expressly stated that this kind of link is prohibited or not desirable <http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws/index.php?&lng=en>

⁴⁹ Data update to June 2016.

⁵⁰ <http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws>

⁵¹ Statistics updated on June 2016.

when the Secretariat is requested to do so, alerts are distributed to partners and are also published online⁵².

56. When the Secretariat receives an alert of theft of artefact, it informs specialized police units, as well as INTERPOL requests its partners to circulate the alert within their respective networks.
57. From September 2015 to September 2016, the Secretariat received 16 alerts from Greece, 6 alerts from Bolivia, and 1 alert from Ecuador. All of them were published on the 1970 Convention web page.

i. Cases of return or restitution of cultural property

58. In 2015 the Government of the United States of America informed UNESCO it had recovered a large number of archaeological and ethnographic cultural objects of “unknown origin” and wanted to return them to their rightful owners. On 3 December 2015, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture invited all Permanent Delegations of Member States to designate four cultural heritage experts in their respective countries to help identify, in collaboration with US authorities, the objects in question and determine their cultural origin, where possible⁵³. As of 29 July 2016, 16 States have nominated 51 experts in total.
59. The Secretariat is frequently contacted by States, individuals and associations seeking assistance in securing the return or restitution of cultural property. The Secretariat provides advice on cases including on those that do not fall within the scope of the 1970 Convention *stricto sensu*. It also provides expertise and technical assistance to facilitate communication between the parties involved (public and private), the use of legal tools, disseminates best practices and facilitates informal negotiations between the various stakeholders. Even though the solutions might not always reflect strict application of the provisions of the Convention, they are often adopted in accordance with its spirit and principles.
60. For example, in January 2016, the Government of Canada formally returned an antique sword and dagger to the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria. The return marks the 21st return by Canada to a fellow State Party to the 1970 Convention, and the third return of cultural property to Bulgaria⁵⁴;
61. On June 2016, the Egyptian Embassy in France received from Millon, a French auction house, an ancient artefact that dates back to the 30th dynasty that ruled in 360-343 B.C. Egypt's foreign ministry clarified that the artefact was received following several official memoranda directed to the French auction house⁵⁵.
62. On July 2016, the Egyptian Embassy in London received eight wooden strips belonging to the Tomb of the Abbasid Caliphs in Cairo. The strips were stolen in the aftermath of the 2011 events. The Egyptian Antiquities Ministry discovered the pieces on a list of items up for sale at the British auction house of Bonhams, London. The Ministry

⁵² <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/international-alerts>

⁵³ Reference letter: CLT/HER/CHP/15/9719

⁵⁴ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/recent-restitution-cases-of-cultural-objects-using-the-1970-convention/>

⁵⁵ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201606301179.html>. According to this source Egypt retrieved around 300 ancient artefacts from France over 2015 and 2016 after France seized them from smugglers.

contacted the concerned authorities to stop the auction and prove Egypt's right to retrieve the artefacts⁵⁶.

j. Cooperation with the art market

63. The most representative art-market stakeholders are regularly invited to participate in discussions at statutory meetings and training workshops (Christie's, Sotheby's, Conseil des Ventes Volontaires, Drouot Enchères and the Syndicat National des Antiquaires (France), Artcurial, Bonhams, etc.). Thanks to the contacts established on various occasions, the Secretariat encouraged early contact with national authorities and auction-house managers in order to seek explanations on certain artefacts on sale and thus secure restitutions, if possible.
64. On October 2015 the Secretariat, jointly with the Conseil des Ventes Volontaires (CVV), called for vigilance by the art market regarding the provenance of cultural property with particular attention to archaeological artefacts originating from Syria and Iraq⁵⁷.
65. Following Decision 3.SC 7, the 30 March 2016 the Secretariat, in partnership with the Conseil des Ventes Volontaires (CVV), organized a one-day round table focused on the art market and its important role in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, entitled "The movement of cultural property in 2016: regulation, international cooperation and professional diligence for the protection of cultural heritage". Art market stakeholders, including representatives of auction houses and online platforms, museum representatives, cultural heritage experts, specialized intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as Member States participated at the conference, which took place in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters. A video recording of the round table is available online on the web page of the 1970 Convention⁵⁸ and the Members of the Subsidiary Committee may wish to provide a follow up to this initiative, either at international, regional or national level.

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66. The Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 4.SC/6

The Subsidiary Committee,

1. Having examined document C70/16/4.SC/6;
2. Takes note with satisfaction of the Secretariat's report on its activities in 2015-2016;

⁵⁶ <http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/egypt-retrieves-abbasid-artifacts-london-auction-house>

⁵⁷ http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/MESSAGE_UNESCOCVV_FINAL.pdf

⁵⁸ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/meetings/art-market-round-table/>

3. Welcomes the Secretariat's strengthening of human and financial resources allowing it to respond more effectively to the increasing number of tasks allocated to it, and invites State Parties to provide financial and human resources support;
4. Welcomes the numerous activities carried out since its last session by the Secretariat and the Field Offices, in particular those pertaining to capacity-building, and awareness-raising on the illicit trafficking of cultural property;
5. Also welcomes the emergency actions undertaken in countries in situations of conflict or disaster, where cultural property is especially at risk, with a special focus on the follow-up of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 and 2253;
6. Encourages States Parties to report to the Secretariat periodically on any measures or activities undertaken for the implementation of paragraphs 15-17 of United Nations Security Council Resolution (2199);
7. Reminds States Parties of their reporting obligation to the Security Council on any measures taken concerning cultural objects, as set forth in paragraph 15 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2253 (2015);
8. Takes note of the broader scope of Resolution 2253 (2015) in terms of suppressing financing of ISIL, ANF and their associates, and invites States Parties to adopt the necessary measures for Libyan and Yemeni cultural artefacts;
9. Invites States Parties to strengthen their support for activities carried out to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention;
10. Also invites States Parties to widely promote and disseminate the awareness-raising videos for tourists, in airports and travel hubs;
11. Encourages the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to implement the Convention and invites it to submit a report on its activities at the Committee's Fifth Session.