



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



4th SC Session - 2016

Oral report on the IRG meetings (2015 – 2016)

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1st Informal Reflection Group at Delphi – The basic Goals

- ❑ Regulations and the monitoring of auction houses and e-commerce of cultural property.
- ❑ The standardization of the restitution procedure.
- ❑ The ways to provide assistance to state – members in war conflict.
- ❑ Implementing public awareness actions.
- ❑ Protecting the documentary heritage (preliminary discussion)
- ❑ The amendment of the rules of procedure (preliminary discussion)

1st Informal Reflection Group at Delphi



Informal Reflection Group at Delphi – the Restitution's Procedure step by step

- Registration of the stolen cultural goods.
- Documentation of the cultural property.
- Pinpoint of stolen artefacts in other countries, member states of UNESCO.
- Official request of restitution, after a detailed legal and scientific documentation.
- International cooperation.

Informal Reflection Group at Delphi - Various presentations

- Best practices of implementing the 1970's Convention all over the world
- Interpol's new database, called PSYCHE.
- Aspects of e-trade of cultural property – Facing the new technology and the social networks.

Informal Reflection Group at Delphi - Final Proposals

1. Strengthening the monitoring of the auction houses
2. Promoting the dialogue, cooperation and the exchange of information among auction houses and states
3. Establishment of a sanction mechanism for the import of illegal removed cultural property or for failure to perform the due diligence.
4. Training of the personnel, involved with relevant issues
5. Proper documentation of cultural goods.
6. Monitoring the borders among state members
7. Promoting the synergies among state entities and intergovernmental organizations.
8. The member states should be encouraged to ratify the 1970's Convention and the UNIDROIT.



2nd Informal Reflection Group (Paris July 2016)

- Topics

1. Amendments of the Rules of Procedures of the Subsidiary Committee, (item 9 of the agenda)
2. New questionnaire on the periodic reporting on the implementation of the Convention (item 14 of the agenda)
3. Protecting the documentary heritage. (item 12 of the agenda)

2nd Informal Reflection Group (Paris July 2016)- Amendment of Rules of Procedure

- a) Eligibility of the members of the SC - Duration of the members of the SC
- b) Simple majority instead of two thirds of the Committee members for the decision of a request for extraordinary session
- c) Time (i.e. end or beginning of the next session) of the election of the Bureau and the duration of its duties
- d) Digital approval of the report of the Subsidiary Committee before submitting it to the meeting of States Parties.

2nd Informal Reflection Group (Paris July 2016)- Periodic Reporting – On line Questionnaire

Problems of periodic reporting

- a) Low reporting rates
- b) Difficulty to check the accuracy of the reporting data
- c) Lack of follow-up

ON Line Questionnaire

- a) initiative of the Secretariat is on a direction helping to fight bureaucracy and save time
- b) Effective tool of monitoring

2nd Informal Reflection Group (Paris July 2016)- Documentary Heritage

- textual items, for example manuscripts, books, newspapers and posters, among others – the textual content may be inscribed in ink, pencil, paint or other media and the carrier may be paper, plastic, papyrus, parchment, palm leaves, bark, textile fabric, stone or other media
- non-textual items such as drawings, prints, maps or music;
- audiovisual items such as films, discs, tapes and photographs – whether recorded in analogue or digital formats, and by mechanical, electronic or other means – comprise a physical carrier with an information-bearing layer where the content resides;
- virtual documents such as websites reside on servers – the carrier may be a hard disc or tape and the content is electronic data



2nd Informal Reflection Group (Paris July 2016)- Measures for the Protection of Documentary Heritage

- Form a network of specialists.
- Take action to generate public policies on archives.
- Issue a joint statement of support and collaboration among national archives, including the commitment not to acquire documents that belong to other nations.
- Develop archival monitoring and referencing tools.
- Develop programs for making facsimile versions of historical documents available to everyone
- Development of Red Lists on documentary heritage.
- Public awareness