

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON ITS ACTIVITIES

FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY
COMMITTEE OF THE MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO
THE 1970 CONVENTION ON THE MEANS OF
PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING THE ILLICIT
IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP
OF CULTURAL PROPERTY



INTRODUCTION

- 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.

SECRETARIAT'S FUNCTIONS, STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- **Functions:** 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.
- **Structure:** A new Section for Movable Heritage and Museums was created, and a Chief of Section was appointed in May 2016.
- **Composition:** The 1970 Convention Secretariat currently comprises five permanent staff members –
 - The Chief of Section,
 - A Programme Specialist,
 - A Young Professional from Oman (arrived in June 2016)
 - Secretarial Assistant,
 - An Associate Programme Specialist has just been recruited.
 - The Secretariat is supported by 4 temporary members (Consultants and interns)
 - The Secretariat also benefited from the secondment, as a consultant, of Ms M. Schneider, Senior Programme Officer at UNIDROIT from mid July 2015 to end of December 2015.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- Extra resources, relied largely on the support of the European Union, several States Parties (China, Greece, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Turkey) and external partners.(Comité Colbert, Conseil des Ventes Volontaires,Lonely planet, Pergamon museam)
- Continues to encourage Member States, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, private partners and other stakeholders to provide financial support in order to better face the new challenges

SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE 1970 CONVENTION AND OTHER UNESCO CULTURAL CONVENTIONS

- The Secretariat organized a meeting between the Bureaus of the 1970 and 1954 Conventions regarding the destruction of cultural heritage during armed conflict and the illicit trafficking of cultural property, specifically in Iraq and Syria, and set up of awareness-raising and training sessions.
- The second meeting of the Chairpersons of UNESCO Culture Convention Committees was organized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee on 26 September.

RATIFICATIONS – 1970 CONVENTION

- From September 2015 to September 2016, two new States, **Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ghana**, have ratified the Convention bringing the number of States Parties to 131.

131 STATES PARTIES



RATIFICATIONS – 1995 UNIDROIT CONVENTION



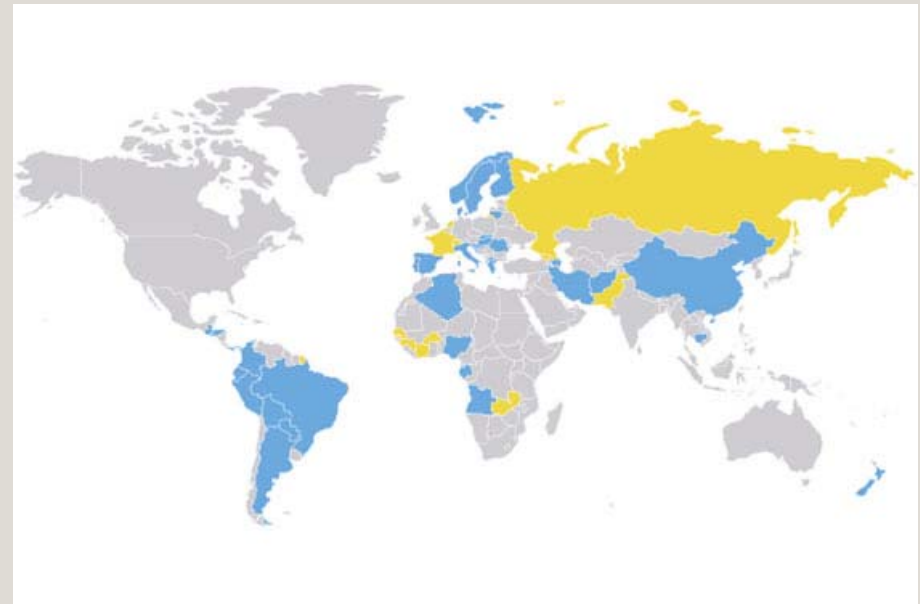
37 STATES PARTIES



Ratification or acceptance: 37 states



Signature (States not parties yet)



NATIONAL REPORTS

- 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.
- The Secretariat has **received 57 national reports in total.**

INFORMAL REFLECTION GROUP MEETINGS

- The Secretariat facilitated the organization of two meetings of the Informal Reflection Group with financial support of China and Greece.
- The first meeting took place in Delphi, Greece, from 3 to 5 June 2016.
- The second meeting took place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on 4 July 2016.



IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGENCY ACTIONS

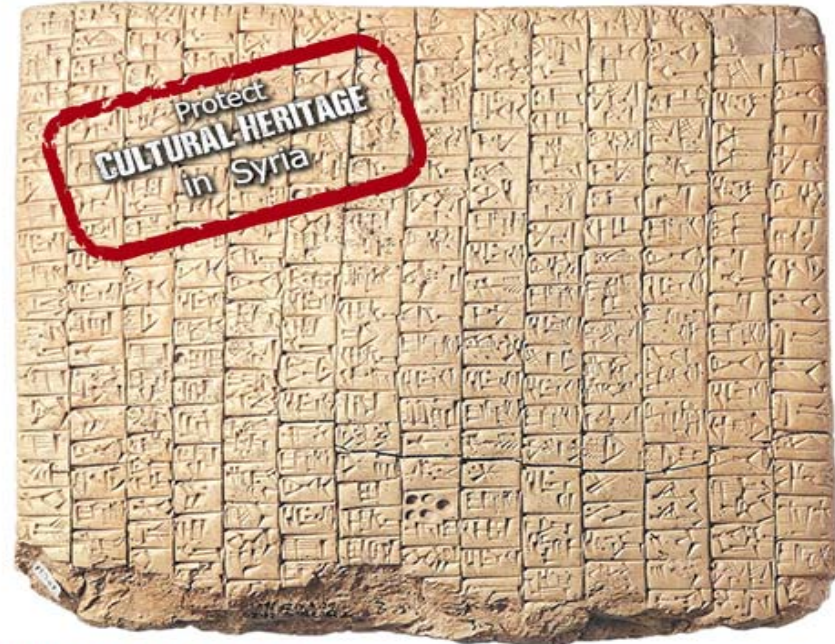
- Emergency actions, notably in **Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nepal, Syria and Yemen.**
- The **UN Security Council Resolution 2199**, on the prevention of illicit traffic of cultural property illegally removed from Iraq and Syria.
- UNESCO held a series of capacity-building workshops, in cooperation, among others, with INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, UNODC and UNIDROIT,

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:

- S/2015/613 (2015)
- S/2015/739 (2015)
- S/2016/213 (2016)
- S/2016/210 (2016)
- S/2016/629 (2016)

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- On 26 January 2016, a **videoconference** was held with the respective Heads of INTERPOL, UNIDROIT, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Customs Organization (WCO) to serve as an immediate **follow-up to the recently adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 2253**, which builds on Resolution 2199.
 - UNESCO organized a series of **expert meetings** which resulted in the elaboration of Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen, Libya and Syria.

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- UNESCO dispatched a **Rapid Assessment Mission to the World Heritage Site of Palmyra** and its Museum (Syria) to identify emergency measures for the safeguarding of movable and immovable heritage including collections stored in the Museum.
 - 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.



CUNEIFORM TABLET

From Tell Mardikh/Ebla (Syria), c. BC 2320-2350

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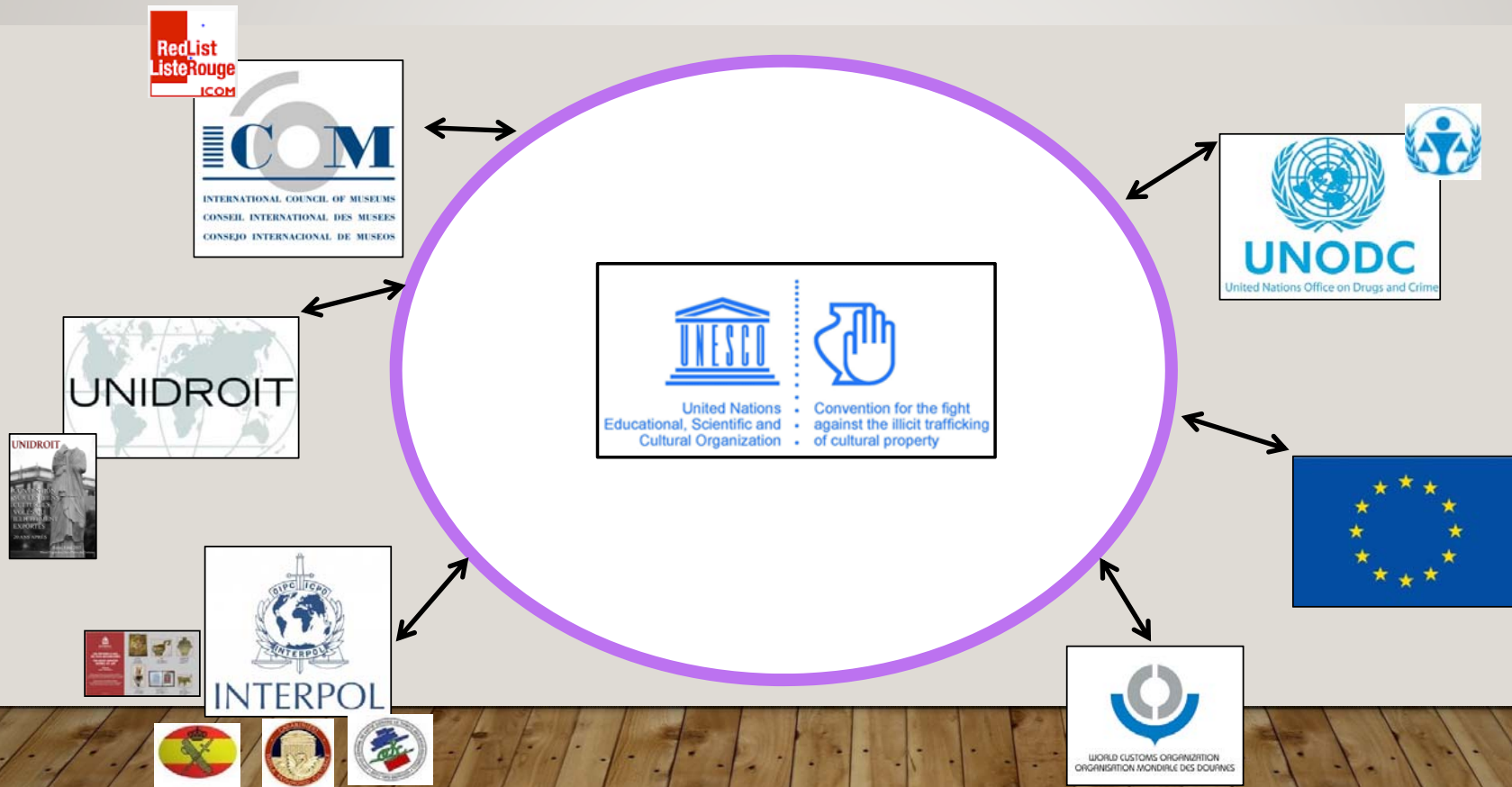
CAPACITY BUILDING

During the period under scrutiny (September 2015 – September 2016), 16 training workshops were held, involving over 600 participants representing 33 different countries.

- Europe
- Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Africa
- Arab Region



INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION



AWARENESS RAISING INITIATIVES

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, which will be broadcasted after this report, will also be broadcasted on UNESCO's website.

19 # UNITE4HERITAGE

 Institut für
Museumsforschung
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin



COMITÉ COLBERT 



PRACTICAL TOOLS

1970 Convention Website:

- Increasing number of alerts of stolen objects and cases of return/restitution published on the 1970 Convention webpages.
- The 1970 Convention Website recorded over 150,000 visits.

UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws:

- The Secretariat continues to develop the “Natlaws” database by extending legislation coverage and the availability of translations;
- It currently comprises 2,829 national cultural laws from 188 countries. Since September 2015, 64 texts have been added by 23 different States(Data update to June 2016);
- Statistics show that the page generates 4,700 searches.

Web Alerts in the event of theft of cultural property:

- When the Secretariat receives an alert of theft of artefact, it informs immediately specialized police units, as well as INTERPOL, and requests its partners to circulate the alert within their respective networks;
- From September 2015 to September 2016, the Secretariat received 16 alerts from Greece, 6 alerts from Bolivia, and 1 alert from Ecuador.

RETURN AND RESTITUTION CASES

- January 2016- Canada – Republic of Bulgaria
- June 2016 – Egypt – France
- July 2016- Egypt – London



COOPERATION WITH THE ART MARKET

- 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 Iraq;
- 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.**



Secretariat

States



Art Market



MOVABLE HERITAGE AND MUSEAMS SECTION 1970 CONVENTION UNIT



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Convention
pour la lutte
contre le trafic illicite
des biens culturels

www.unesco.org/culture/fr/illicittrafficking