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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Convention
pour la lutte
contre le trafic illicite
des biens culturels

3. SC

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**Third 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, Paris, 1970)**

**Paris, UNESCO, Headquarters, Room XI
28 – 30 September 2015**

Final report / Summary Records

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The third session of 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 “the 1970 Convention”) took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 28 to 30 September 2015. It was attended by 171 participants, of whom 59 were from the 18 Member States of the Subsidiary Committee, 87 were from 38 of the 129 States Parties to the 1970 Convention, 4 were representatives of the 3 intergovernmental organisations (IGO) and non-governmental organisations (NGO), 3 were observers and 14 were members of the UNESCO Secretariat.
2. **The Assistant Director-General for Culture (ADG/CLT), Franceso Bandarin**, expressed his concerns about the illicit trafficking of cultural property, in particular in Iraq and in Syria. He praised the many emergency actions undertaken namely by the Secretariat and reminded the States Parties that their financial support was vital for the successful implementation of the programme. In this regard, he expressed his gratitude to Turkey and Italy and to UNIDROIT for the provision of an expert. Mr Bandarin reminded States of their responsibilities concerning the implementation of Resolution 2199 of the United Nations Security Committee and the importance of UNESCO’s role in coordinating and monitoring this implementation. Stressing the importance of awareness-raising measures, the ADG/CLT referred to the global coalition for the campaign “*Unite4Heritage*”, which was promoted by means of a large banner displayed for the three days of the session hung from the podium. In view of the disturbing increase in intensity of illicit trafficking in cultural property internationally, the ADG/CLT stressed the overwhelming need to speed up and rationalise the work of the Subsidiary Committee to make implementation of the 1970 Convention more effective.

II. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

Document C70/15/3.SC/2/Rev and Resolution 3.SC 2

3. At the proposal of **Cyprus** and with the support of **Mexico, Italy, Morocco, India, Ecuador, Nigeria and Bulgaria**, the candidacy of Ms Maria Vlazaki, **Greece**, for Chair of the Subsidiary Committee was put forward. Since no other candidacies were submitted, Ms Maria Vlazaki was elected Chairperson unanimously. Composition of the rest of the Bureau was as follows: Mr Nevil Antonio Montenegro (Ecuador) was elected Rapporteur and India, Iraq, Nigeria and Poland were elected Deputy Chairpersons.
4. Having thanked Subsidiary Committee members for the confidence placed in her in this election, **the Chairperson** commended the work of her predecessor, Mr. M. Escanero. She also expressed her concern regarding the ever-increasing numbers of deliberate attacks on cultural property and her desire to find constructive solutions to deal with these. Finally she called upon those in attendance to observe one minute’s silence in memory of Khaled al-Assaad, the renowned Syrian archaeologist and former Director of the Palmyra Museum, who was beheaded by ISIS in August 2015.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Documents C70/15/3.SC/3., C70/15/3.SC/INF.3A, C70/15/3.SC/INF.3B.REV
Resolution 3.SC 3**

5. **Greece**, supported by **Italy**, proposed including new items to the provisional agenda:

- 4.2. Presentation by the States Parties of measures adopted nationally within the context of Resolution 2199;
 - 4.3. Stepping up of synergies between the bureaux of the Committees for the 1954 and 1970 Conventions with regard to emergency situations;
 9. Agenda, dates and location of the next session.
6. Revised based on a proposal by Greece, the Agenda was adopted by the Subsidiary Committee.

IV. ORAL REPORT BY THE RAPPOREUR ON THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE OF THE MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE 1970 CONVENTION (2014)

7. In her oral report, **Ms Artemis Papathanassiou**, Rapporteur of the second session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention (June 2014) primarily highlighted the work carried out by the informal working group on the elaboration of Operational Guidelines for implementation of the 1970 Convention, which were adopted by the third Meeting of States Parties in May 2015.

IV.1. REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT

Document C70/15/3.SC/4 and Resolution 3.SC 4

Presentation of document C70/15/3.SC/4

8. **The Secretariat** presented to the Subsidiary Committee the report on its activities since the month of June 2014. After applauding ratification of the Convention by two new States (Luxembourg and Austria), it also pointed out that three regions were lacking in terms of membership: the Caribbean, Southern and East Africa and Asia Pacific. The increasing number of signatories to the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects was also praised.
9. Among the many activities undertaken, particular emphasis was placed on emergency actions, particularly in several countries in the Arab Region where cultural property is prone to the threats of destruction and pillaging. **The Secretariat** also returned to the numerous awareness-raising activities carried out, whether media campaigns or initiatives such as joint undertakings with the Pergamon Museum in Berlin or with the Colbert Committee, a non-governmental entity composed of dozens prestigious luxury houses in France. The imminent launch of innovative partnerships with *Le Guide du Routard* and Lonely Planet, intended to raise the awareness among travellers, was also referred to. In terms of capacity building, between June 2014 and September 2015 **the Secretariat** ran 16 training workshops involving 60 countries, attended by 580 participants.
10. With regard to cooperation, **the Secretariat** stressed the need to raise awareness among art market professionals and take action regarding implementation of Resolution 2199 of the United Nations Security Council.

Adoption of decision 3.SC 4

11. With a view to making dialogue easier between the different actors, **Ecuador**, backed by **Italy**, proposed that the Secretariat should organise an exchange of views between representatives of the art market and the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties. **The Secretariat** raised the issue of the budgetary resources needed to organise

such an event, stressing that a State could also offer to host the meeting and meet all associated costs. In terms of finding out whether the UNESCO emergency fund could be used for this purpose, the ADG/CLT specified that the Executive Committee and the General Conference were unable to approve this request in 2015, due to the lack of time before the holding of their respective session.

12. A new paragraph (paragraph 12) was therefore inserted into the draft decision regarding this point: "Asks the Secretariat to organise an exchange of views between representatives of the art market and the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties, subject to extra-budgetary resources".
13. A major issue, and often a thorny subject, procedures for the restitution or return of cultural properties are generally misunderstood by States. For this reason, **India**, followed by **Cyprus**, **Ecuador**, **Greece**, and **Italy**, expressed the need to create a standard procedure in this area. After lengthy debate, the wording of the paragraph relating to this issue (paragraph 14) was approved as follows:
Also asks the Secretariat to finalise the standard action plan for the restitution or return of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property offered for sale in particular on the Internet or by auction, within its financial resources and to present it to the next session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties".

IV.2. PRESENTATION BY STATES PARTIES CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2199

14. Although the request was made to change the agenda of the session to include a specific item on this subject, no State presented measures taken nationally within the context of implementation of Resolution 2199. Only **Italy** stated that in view of the grave threats currently facing cultural property, an operational initiative involving a special military police unit to step up its protection in Syria and Iraq was proposed at the 197th session of the Executive Board.

IV.3. SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE OF THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE 1970 CONVENTION AND THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT (SECOND PROTOCOL OF THE 1954 HAGUE CONVENTION)

15. Faced with the increase in number of deliberate attacks on cultural property and its weaponization, **Greece** presented a draft decision to the Secretariat for potential adoption at the third session of the Subsidiary Committee. In line with Resolution 2199, the proposal sought to enhance synergies between the 1954 and 1970 UNESCO Conventions concerning emergency situations and particularly regarding the exchange of information and training activities.
16. After **the Chairperson** had read the proposed draft decision, **the Secretariat** pointed out that the meeting of the Chairpersons of all UNESCO cultural conventions was held in Bonn on 29 June 2015 and indicated that a joint meeting of both Committees could be organised on 7 December 2015, since the meeting of High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention was taking place from the following day and interpreting costs were already paid for the event. **Nigeria** suggested also extending the stepping up of synergies to the 1972 Convention but this proposal was not retained in the decision adopted.
17. Adoption of decision 3.SC 4.3

The Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties,

- *Recalling the Meeting of the Chairpersons of all UNESCO Culture Conventions (Bonn, 29 June 2015),*
- *Having examined the Greek initiative to pursue the strengthening of synergies between the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Committee and the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, established by the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954,*
- *Approves the initiative as proposed;*
- *Asks the Secretariat to facilitate organisation of a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the respective Committees before the next meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Hague Convention (8 December 2015);*
- *Decides that such a meeting will work on the following topics:*
 - a. exchange of relevant information concerning the destruction of cultural property in armed conflict*
 - b. exchange of relevant information concerning the organisation of awareness-raising and training of military, police and customs forces on the protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict and fighting against the illegal trafficking of movable heritage.*

V. OVERSIGHT OF RESOLUTION 2199 BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL: PRESENTATION BY PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

18. **Mr. Corrado CATESI**, Unit Coordinator for Artworks at the Secretariat General of INTERPOL, presented the measures undertaken by his organisation within the context of Resolution 2199. Accordingly, he pointed out the existence and the importance of the stolen artworks database, mentioned the major role played by INTERPOL in the seizure and restitution of Iraqi cultural objects, and the PSYCHE project (Protection System for Cultural Heritage) intended to modernise INTERPOL's stolen artworks database. He also stressed the need to scale up training of police forces, and information and expertise sharing.
19. **Ms Frédérique GAUTIER**, expert within the Sanctions Monitoring Team (SMT) pointed out through the Secretariat, the obligation to implement Resolution 2199 within 120 days, and the sending of a report by UNESCO to the Sanctions Monitoring Team at the United Nations drawing upon the 34 national reports submitted by Member States concerning measures taken within the context of Resolution 2199.
20. In light of these reports, the SMT flagged up the following shortcomings:
 - In order to respond to the urgency of the situation, the deadline given to States Parties to send in their report was not sufficient in order to adopt significant counter-measures or scale up existing measures or to assess their impacts;
 - absence of reports and lack of information from certain key countries;
 - the need for more substantial and detailed information to be available at the national level.
21. Moreover, the Subsidiary Committee was told that additional evaluations would be conducted by the SMT through fieldwork missions under the mandate entrusted to it by Resolution 2199 (paragraph 30). The SMT also recommended that all United Nations entities should step up communication and awareness-raising targeting private-sector actors concerning their obligations in line with the requirements of Resolution 2199. The recommendations set out in the report by the SMT were also read to the Subsidiary Committee.
22. **Mr Nordirjon IBRAGIMOV**, Head of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the UNODC made clear that the mandate of his organisation has been extended to include

cultural property and that guidelines had recently been adopted by the General Assembly to strengthen measures on the illegal trafficking of cultural property and other related offences. Foremost among the activities and tools developed were the knowledge management portal and databases. In order to scale up international cooperation, Member States were invited to make use of these tools; the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws and Case Law offers an improved understanding of procedural requirements (namely in terms of seizure, confiscation and restitution of cultural property) and the database listing the national authorities tasked with extradition and mutual aid between judiciaries now includes a list of points of contact by country.

23. In terms of the capacity building, the organisation of training for port inspection units has already enabled the competences of customs and inspection agents to be increased in 25 countries. Subsequently, seizures of cultural property have been carried out in Central and South America. In the area of preventing the financing of terrorism, training courses have been organised in Northern Africa and the Middle-East. A project is currently being planned for the Yemeni authorities.

VI. EXAMINATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Document C70/15/3.SC/6 and Resolution 3.SC 6

24. Having firstly pointed out the obligation of States Parties to submit their periodic reports on a quadrennial basis, **the Secretariat** highlighted the working method to be used to implement the Convention and enhance its credibility, with reference to the various tools developed: Operational Guidelines for implementation of the Convention, road map for carrying out the functions of the Subsidiary Committee and recommendations formulated in the evaluation report on implementation of the Convention, prepared by the Internal Oversight Service.
25. Among the various difficulties encountered in the examination of implementation of the Convention by the States Parties, **the Secretariat** highlighted the low submission rate, the variable nature of the content of reports, difficulties in determining the accuracy of this content and the lack of follow-up. Whilst stating that the summary of the national reports presented at the General Conference will include all of the States Parties who submitted their periodic report (including after the cut-off date), **the Secretariat** called upon the Subsidiary Committee to re-think the reporting system that had been in place up to that point. The **Secretariat** also suggested introducing a system for the online submission and examination of questionnaires, which would require the consent of States. The questionnaire elaborated by the Internal Oversight Service, annexed to this document, could also be used as a template. Finally, **the Secretariat** presented work recently initiated in table format for the cross-cutting examination of each questionnaire subject.

Adoption of decision 3.SC 6

26. **Ecuador**, backed by **Bolivia, India, Italy** and **Japan** confirmed the need to re-consider both the format of the questionnaire and the deadlines for submission, with a view to giving the Convention a new lease of life and ensuring its optimal implementation. To this end, the Secretariat was asked to submit, at the fourth session of the Subsidiary Committee, a new proposal questionnaire, that is better suited to the requirements of the Operational Directives.
27. Certain States expressed their regret at not having managed to submit their periodic report. Among these were **India** and **Italy** among Subsidiary Committee members, and **Germany** and **Barbados** among observers. The question of the consent of States

Parties for the uploading of their periodic report was the subject of lengthy debate. Also, **Italy** suggested inserting an additional paragraph on this issue into the decision and the proposal of **Cyprus** and **Germany**¹, paragraph 5 of the draft decision was adopted as follows:

“Decides that reports shall be made publicly available online, unless the State concerned objects to it. The other paragraphs of the draft decision were adopted without modifications.

VII. PROPOSALS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD MAP AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNESCO’S INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICE

Document C70/15/3.SC/7 and Resolution 3.SC 7

28. The road map for fulfilling the functions of the Subsidiary Committee and for evaluating the standard-setting work of UNESCO’s Culture Sector, the second part of which concerns the 1970 Convention, highlights the need for improved implementation. To attain this objective, **the Secretariat** pointed out the importance of establishing a clear and coherent strategy, starting with the setting out of the major subjects that the Subsidiary Committee ought to examine in this regard: capacity building and awareness raising, international cooperation, promotion of dialogue and development of partnerships, national reports, identification of problem areas and reports to States Parties.
29. **The Secretariat** also proposed that the Subsidiary Committee should select specific subjects or problem areas at each of its sessions. With reference to paragraph 10 of the road map for fulfilling the functions of the Subsidiary Committee adopted on 18 May 2015, the first subject put forward for examination at the next session is the online sale of cultural property of illegal origin. This proposal was favourably received by the majority of States Parties who also commended the new working method proposed.
30. **Japan** raised the idea of preparing a study on the subject identified by the Secretariat, whose workload is already significant taking into account its current resources. On this point, the **Secretariat** stated that an expert in the subject selected could be tasked with conducting research and study in the field and present this at the next session. **The Secretariat** also asked Member States to prepare specific issue and to share their experience of dealing with the problem area concerned at the national level.

Adoption of decision 3.SC 7

31. With reference to decision 3.SC 4, **Italy**, backed by **Ecuador**, asked to modify paragraph 4 of the draft decision, the Secretariat being not only asked to organise the round-table of art market professionals but also, above all, to present its results. The aforesaid paragraph was therefore modified as follows:

“Asks the Secretariat to organise a round-table of art market professionals and in particular auction houses, private collectors and Internet Service Providers and to present the results at the next session”.

32. Concerning measures to step up the fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural property, **Bolivia**, backed by **Ecuador**, suggested that existing tools, such as Operational Guidelines for implementation of the 1970 Convention, be used.

¹ Being a Non-Member States of the Subsidiary Committee, the proposal by Germany was backed by the Chairperson.

33. In response to a request by **UNODC**, the Guidelines on Crime Prevention Measures and Criminal Justice concerning cultural property and other associated offences were also included in paragraph 5 of Decision 3.SC7.
34. Supported and presented by **Mexico**, the proposal by **Germany** to use the Object ID standard and inventories including provenance and photographs as a preventive measure gave rise to a number of counter proposals of the part of Member States for the drafting of the corresponding paragraph. It was finally adopted as follows:
- “Asks States Parties to use, wherever possible, the Object ID standard and inventories including photographs to document cultural property in order to prevent theft and facilitate the restitution of cultural property”.*
35. With regard to awareness-raising strategies for merchants in cultural property, **the Secretariat** stated that training in preventing the illegal trafficking of cultural property is an effective mechanism for stepping up dialogue with sector professionals. However, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Greece** proposed that the term *“training”* should be replaced by the more general designation *“awareness-raising”* in paragraph 7.b of the draft Decision
36. **Mexico**, backed by **Poland**, **Ecuador** and **Japan**, proposed including the trafficking of documentary heritage as another priority subject to examine at the fourth session of the Subsidiary Committee, and pointed out that the Mexican National Archives could submit a study to the Subsidiary Committee, when the fourth session takes place.
37. The paragraph (initially paragraph 8, then paragraph 9) concerning subjects to be examined as a priority was therefore modified as follows:

Also decides to examine as a priority at the fourth session, the online sale of cultural property of illegal origin, including the creation of standard simplified procedures for search, seizure, confiscation orders and restitution orders for such property and trafficking in documentary heritage.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

38. **Morocco**, with the backing of **Greece**, **Italy**, **Libya**, **Madagascar**, **the Republic of Cyprus** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, proposed amending Article 4 (concerning the date and location of sessions) and Article 12 (concerning election of the bureau) of the Internal Regulations of the Subsidiary Committee. In order to better prepare these matters and think about them ahead of time, **the Secretariat** proposed including a specific item in the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Subsidiary Committee, requesting that States Parties submit their respective proposals beforehand.
39. Accordingly, Decision 3.SC 8 was adopted by the Subsidiary Committee as follows:

The Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties,

- *Requests the Secretariat to include an agenda item at the next session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties in 2016, concerning the possible amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties;*
- *Invites States Parties to submit to the Secretariat proposals in English and/or in French for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties by 31 May 2016 at the latest;*

- *Also asks the Secretariat to submit a draft document containing proposals for amendments of the Rules of Procedure of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties for possible adoption at the next session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties in 2016.*
40. Based on the rewarding experience of the informal working group in elaborating the Operational Guidelines for implementation of the 1970 Convention, **Ecuador** proposed re-establishing this body, along the lines of the one created at the first session of the Subsidiary Committee in 2013. This proposal was backed by **Armenia, Bolivia, Greece, India, Japan, Libya, Morocco, Mexico** and **Nigeria**. However, **the Secretariat** alerted the Subsidiary Committee to travel and interpreting costs (in English and French) associated with the operation of this informal working group.
41. Whereas **Morocco, Mexico** and **Japan** expressed their concerns regarding the successful operation of this informal working group in the face of the budgetary constraints referred to, **Ecuador, Libya** and **Italy** took the view that solutions could be found and that the financial component ought not to prevent its creation. This subject was the focus of lengthy debate, requiring the intervention of the legal advisor who indicated that the Subsidiary Committee had the possibility of creating such a body, within the limit of the technical resources available, under Article 19 of its Internal Regulations.
42. The issue of the mandate conferred upon this informal working group was also the subject of much debate and following lengthy discussions between the Secretariat and Subsidiary Committee Members, Decision 3 SC 9 was drafted and adopted as follows:
- The Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties,*
- *Considering the urgent need to foster the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property*
 - *Acting in accordance with Rule 1 of its Rules of Procedure,*
 - *Taking into account the practice established in accordance with its Decision 1.SC 4 (2013),*
 - *Decides to establish an informal reflection group until its 4th session, composed of all 18 Members of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties and open to Observers under the coordination of the Chairperson of this Committee;*
 - *Decides that the informal reflection group shall work on the priority topics identified in Decision 3SC/7, namely the online sales of illicitly trafficked cultural property, including the establishment of standard and simplified procedures for search, seizure, confiscation orders and restitution orders of such property and the trafficking in documentary heritage and may also reflect on the items related to the agenda of the next session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties;*
 - *The informal reflection group may invite experts, whose fees shall be met by their respective countries, to exchange views on the above-mentioned topics;*
 - *Requests the Secretariat to assist the informal reflection group as required;*
 - *Invites the Member States of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties as well as the States Parties to the Convention to provide necessary resources for the sessions of the informal reflection group.*
43. On closure of the session, the Delegation of the **People's Republic of China** to UNESCO announced a donation of \$50,000 to participate in the operations of the informal reflection group.

IX. AGENDA, DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT SESSION

44. Approved by the Subsidiary Committee, the proposal by **Greece** to include a new item concerning the agenda, dates and location of the next session sought to prepare through research and analysis, the various items to be examined at the next session. **The Secretariat** therefore proposed that annual sessions of the Subsidiary Committee be held in the second half of September and that every other year the Inter-Governmental Committee for the Promotion of the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin or its Restitution in the Case of Illicit Appropriation should be organised immediately after the Subsidiary Committee.
45. In light of the Decisions adopted throughout the third session, the decision concerning organisation of the fourth session of the Subsidiary Committee (Decision 3 SC 10) was adopted as follows:

The Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties,

- *Decides to hold its 4th session in the second half of September 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters;*
- *Agrees to include the following items in the provisional agenda of its 4th session:*
 - *Online sales of stolen or illegally exported cultural property;*
 - *Illicit trafficking in documentary heritage;*
 - *Results of the round-table meeting with art market representatives;*
 - *Standard-setting document on return and restitution cases;*
 - *Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties;*
 - *Follow-up of the synergies between the 1970 Convention's Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties and the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict established by the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.*

X. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

Having read through all of the Decisions, **the Chairperson** declared them to be adopted in their entirety.

XI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

46. **The Rapporteur** praised the quality of debate and the important decisions adopted during the third session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention. **The Secretariat** thanked all Subsidiary Committee Members and Observer States for their active participation in the session **and the Chairperson** closed the third session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties, after thanking the Secretariat, the Rapporteur and the States Parties.

PARALLEL EVENTS

47. Three events were held alongside the third session of the Subsidiary Committee:
- The first, organised by the Italian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, sought to highlight the role played by the Carabinieri Department in safeguarding cultural property and in particular launch of the "ITPC" application for smartphone and tablet.

Designed for a broad public, this application enables access to the Stolen Artworks Database and was developed by the Italian Ministry for Heritage, Cultural Activities and Tourism. Soon to be available in several languages, this application will also allow users to access a large range of records on stolen artworks compiled by the Carabinieri since the 70s. It is an innovative measure in the fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural property.

- A round-table was held to mark the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws thanks to the generous financial contribution of the Swiss government (Federal Office of Culture). All speakers highlighted the important role of the database in the fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural property, in terms of searching, provenance, the carrying out of diligence and case law and also in terms of informing the public about the protection of cultural property worldwide.

In the extension of the high level meeting convened by the Director General of UNESCO, on 1st April 2015, to improve the safeguarding of Iraqi and Syrian cultural property, a meeting of experts on oversight of Resolution 2199 was organised, with the following partners in attendance: INTERPOL, ICOM, DCO, UNIDROIT and UNODC. The main decisions taken at this meeting were as follows:

- Preparation of guidelines for police, customs officers and judges to prevent any confusion in interpretation of Resolution 2199;
- Development of a training programme on the fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural property and its incorporation in workshops organised by the WCO and UNODC.