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**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)**

**Third Meeting
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
18-20 May 2015**

Item 6 of the provisional agenda: **Report of the Secretariat on its activities
(June 2012 - May 2015)**

This document presents the report of
the Secretariat on its activities
undertaken from June 2012 to May
2015.

Decision required: paragraph 55

INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretariat reports to 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 (hereinafter the “1970 Convention”) and the implementation activities since June 2012.

I. Activities undertaken

I.1 Statutory implementation

I.1.1 Ratifications

2. Increasing the ratifications of the 1970 Convention is a priority for the Secretariat, which is making constant efforts to encourage countries that are not yet parties to become parties. Since June 2012, **six** countries have ratified the 1970 Convention, bringing the number up to 128, the latest addition being Luxembourg in February 2015.

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
|  | Swaziland | 30/10/2012 |
|  | Lesotho | 17/07/2013 |
|  | Myanmar | 05/09/2013 |
|  | Bahrain | 07/03/2014 |
|  | Chile | 18/04/2014 |
|  | Luxembourg | 03/02/2015 |

3. Furthermore, the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995) has **five** new States parties, thus raising the number of Contracting States to 36:

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
|  | Colombia | 14/06/2012 |
|  | Honduras | 27/08/2013 |
|  | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 28/08/2013 |
|  | Angola | 19/06/2014 |
|  | Algeria | 09/04/2015 |

4. 3 very poorly represented regions require more effort: the Caribbean Area, Asia-Pacific and East and Southern Africa.

I.1.2 Operational Directives

5. The revision and finalisation of the Operational Directives initiated by the Secretariat by decision of the States Parties aiming at more effective implementation of the 1970 Convention provisions, was conducted under the aegis of the Subsidiary Committee and its Informal Working Group (IWG) (decision 1.SC 4). The project was then approved by consensus at the second session of the Subsidiary Committee (30 June - 2 July 2014). It is submitted to this third ordinary meeting of the States Parties for possible adoption.

I.1.3 National reports

6. Article 16 of the 1970 Convention states that the States Parties, on the dates determined by the UNESCO General Conference, must forward a report to UNESCO on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and on the other measures taken to apply the Convention. In October 2003, Resolution 32 C/38 of the General Conference set the periodicity for presenting these reports to a four-year interval.

7. In a letter dated 23 March 2015 (Ref. CL/4102), the Director-General of UNESCO invited the States Parties to the Convention to present their reports on the implementation of the Convention to the Organisation by 25 June 2015. A summary of these national contributions will be submitted at the 38th session of the General Conference under the title “National Reports”.

I.2 Development of legal and practical tools

I.2.1 UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws¹

8. The “Natlaws” database, the development of which has been encouraged by Recommendation 16 of the assessment conducted by IOS², is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2015. It brings the public direct, free, multilingual and up to date information on legal and practical matters to combat looting, theft and illicit traffic of cultural property. The updates, translations and publications relating to this database have been funded by the Department of State of the United States of America since 2005.

9. It currently comprises 2,746 national cultural laws from 188 countries. Since June 2012, 448 texts have been added by 45 different States and the legislations of six new countries have been added to the database – Cook Islands, Niue, Saint-Marin, South Sudan, Suriname and Timor-Leste. All of these texts are available online at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws>

10. In addition to updating incoming texts regularly, the Secretariat ensures that the translations (from the original language into English) requested by some countries are done. Two translation agreements have been concluded since 2012, with Honduras and Nicaragua. Ten countries appear on the priority list determined by the donor: Algeria, Bolivia, Ecuador, Libya, Mali (contract in the finalisation process), Morocco, Panama, Salvador, Thailand and Tunisia.

11. The database is systematically described and promoted in meetings, conferences and training workshops on the protection of cultural heritage, by the consultant in charge of the database and by the 1970 Convention Secretariat. Links pointing to the database have been added to many of UNESCO's web pages and to those of other bodies and partners of the Organisation playing a major role in protecting cultural heritage. The statistics show that the page generates an average of 3,567 lookups and 344,812 page views a month.

¹ The States are invited to provide information in electronic format (USB key, CD-ROM or e-mail) officially to UNESCO, together with official written authorization from the competent national authority for UNESCO to reproduce the legislation and the export/import certificates on its website and to link the website to the official national website, unless it is expressly specified that such a link is prohibited or not desired. <http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws/index.php?&lng=fr>

² <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/unesco-database-of-national-cultural-heritage-laws/> Also see Recommendation 16 of the *Evaluation of UNESCO's standard-setting work of the Culture Sector* (IOS/EVS/PI/133 REV.4)

12. To that end, a brochure was compiled and published in the Organization's six languages in 2009. It, too, is available online,³ together with a glossary of keywords. Furthermore, a newsletter was launched in December 2014 to inform users of updates to the database and about meetings and workshops held in connection with database themes. So far, 1,367 people have subscribed to this newsletter. Lastly, the database's Twitter account⁴ was created in 2014 and now has 43 followers.

I.2.2 Basic actions concerning cultural objects being offered for sale over the Internet.⁵

13. Drawn up in cooperation with (INTERPOL) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM), these measures are proposed to States that wish to follow specific procedures in order to control the sale of cultural property on the Internet, a rapidly expanding activity. More precisely, these measures aim to monitor movements of such property on virtual sales platforms more effectively, increase cooperation with police forces (foreign and international) and facilitate the seizure of property.

I.2.3. Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects (2007)⁶

14. Developed jointly by the UNESCO and World Customs Organization (WCO) Secretariats, the Model Export Certificate is a tool for combating trafficking in cultural property. Both organisations recommend their member States to contemplate adopting it as an international standard.

15. The assessment contributions of 42 States and the European Union on the utility and effectiveness of this certificate have been summarised in a report presented to the States and partners of UNESCO and the WCO. Since June 2012, no model certificate has yet been disclosed to the Natlaws database.

I.2.4 Standard provisions defining State ownership over undiscovered cultural property⁷

16. These non-compulsory legal guidelines are intended to promote national law harmonisation to ensure that all States acquire sufficiently explicit principles in defining State ownership of cultural heritage, especially archaeological. These provisions are regularly promoted and taken into account at international and national levels but must continue to be actively disseminated so that the States continue to improve their legislation and guarantee the return of stolen cultural property in better conditions.

I.2.5 Red List of Cultural Objects at Risk⁸ (ICOM)

17. ICOM Red Lists contribute to protecting the cultural heritage of the countries involved. These lists are developed in cooperation with experts from the worldwide museum community and UNESCO. ICOM has already published Red Lists for several countries and regions, including for Dominican cultural objects at risk (2013) and Syrian cultural objects at risk (2013). An updated version of the Emergency Red List of Iraqi Antiquities at Risk will soon be published.

³ <http://www.unesco.org/culture/fr/natlaws/db/brochure.pdf>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/NatlawsDatabase>

⁵ http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/basic-actions-cultural-objects-for-sale_fr.pdf

⁶ <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/illegal-trafficking-of-cultural-property/legal-and-practical-instruments/unesco-wco-model-export-certificate/>

⁷ <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/restitution-of-cultural-property/standards-for-ownership/#c317312>

⁸ <http://icom.museum/programmes/lutte-contre-le-traffic-illicite/listes-rouges/L/2/>

I.2.6 Web alerts in the event of theft of cultural property

18. The 1970 Convention Secretariat receives daily requests from States Parties to publish international online alerts on stolen cultural property, thereby contributing to international cooperation effort to facilitate their return to their country of origin. Accordingly, when the Secretariat is requested to do so, alerts are distributed to partners and published online:

- February 2014: six religious paintings and other artefacts were stolen from El Calvario Church in La Antigua, in the Sacatepéquez region of Guatemala;
- March 2014: four silver pieces were stolen from La Recoleta Church in Cusco, Peru;
- March 2014: 70 artefacts were stolen from the National Museum of Fine Arts of Cuba;
- April 2014: a marble Ionic capital was stolen from the archaeological site at Ancient Sparta in Greece;
- June 2014: a metal cross was stolen at New Penteli, in the Greek region of Attica;
- January 2015: a tombstone was stolen from a property in Karyes, Sparta, Peloponnese;
- February 2015: a statue of a seated Buddha was stolen from the temple of Vat Ong Tu, Ventiane, Laos;
- March 2015: a painted terracotta dish was stolen from the KunturWasi museum in Cajamarca, province of San Pablo, Peru;
- March 2015: two religious paintings (oil on canvas), “Virgendel Carmen” and “Virgen de Pomata” were stolen from the Saint Andres church, district of Desaguadero, province of Chucuito, Puno region, Peru;
- March 2015: two devotional paintings “Corona de la Virgen de la Natividad” and “Corona de la Virgen de Fatima” were stolen from the Saint Andres church, district of Desaguadero, province de Chucuito, Puno region, Peru.

19. The publicity given to the above information formed part of action that must be taken by countries of origin in order to report thefts (in particular by entering the information into the INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art database) and to facilitate restitution. Thanks to the as-needed assistance of a webmaster, the Secretariat attempts to respond within the limits of its capacities to the demands of the States Parties in this area. The latter are encouraged to continue to send the Secretariat any alert concerning significant thefts committed in their territory.

I.2.7 Cases of return or restitution of cultural property

20. The Secretariat was contacted frequently by States, individuals and associations seeking assistance in securing the return or restitution of cultural property. The Secretariat was nonetheless required to follow up and give advice on requests that did not fall *strictosensu* within the scope of the 1970 Convention and it provided expertise and technical assistance to facilitate communication between the parties involved (public and private), the use of legal tools, sharing best practices, and to facilitate informal negotiations between the various stakeholders, sometimes through the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property (ICPRCP).

21. In view of the growing number of requests, the Secretariat wishes to implement a road map (standard action plan) to which access was given immediately to all national authorities tasked with initiating procedures for the return or restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property found within their borders and offered for sale by auction. The first working group on the subject was held on 11 February 2014 with representatives of national police services and INTERPOL but was not followed up due to a lack of personnel.

22. Lastly, the Secretariat was requested regularly by the States Parties to highlight on the website cases in which bilateral negotiations have led to the return or restitution of cultural property. The posting of such information online raised the profile of restitutions made as a result

of national efforts based on international instruments such as the 1970 Convention Eventually, a database containing best practices in the field of restitution of cultural property within and outside the scope of the Convention will be placed online to meet Decision 19.Com 4 of the 19th session of the ICPRCP Committee.

I.3 Emergency activities

23. In view of the increasing number of attacks against cultural heritage, the Secretariat of 1970 Convention is engaged in a great many emergency actions, notably in Iraq, Libya, Mali and Syria. A special document⁹ has been prepared to report on the emergency actions undertaken by the Secretariat in response to these situations.

I.4 Awareness raising activities

I.4.1 Publications

Publication of *Culture & Development* – “Stop the illicit Traffic of Cultural Property”

24. The Convention Secretariat and the UNESCO Office in Havana have published an issue of the magazine “Culture & Development”, a medium for reflection, exchange and the sharing of ideas and experiential data on culture portraying culture as a key factor of the region’s economic and human development. It features contributions from UNESCO, UNIDROIT, INTERPOL and ICOM experts plus the experience and mechanisms used to curb cultural property trafficking in this region. The results of the various workshops held in Asunción, Buenos Aires, Lima and Sainte-Lucie are also featured. The publication is available free of charge online¹⁰.

Translation of the Compendium *Witnesses to History*¹¹ in Arabic

25. Thanks to financial backing from the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Arabic version of *Witnesses to History - Documents and writings on the return of cultural objects* was published in April 2014 and is on sale at the UNESCO bookshop. This work provides a wide range of perspectives on this subject. It gives an outline of the historical, philosophical and ethical aspects of the return of cultural objects. It is both relevant documentation for students and the general public and a reference book for specialists, scholars and decision-makers. It is now available in English, French, Arabic and Chinese language versions. The Secretariat is continuing its efforts to obtain off-budget funds to publish it in Spanish.

Translation of the *Comments on the 1970 Convention*¹²

26. In April 2014, the Convention Secretariat published the French version of the *Commentary on the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the illicit trafficking of cultural property* by P.J. O’Keefe (UNESCO Publications, second edition, 2007 - available from the UNESCO bookshop and online). Funds are required to translate the work into other languages.

I.4.2. Video material

⁹ C70/15/3.MSP/9

¹⁰ PDF version (English): <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002255/225521E.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/publications/witnesses-to-history-documents-and-writings-on-the-return-of-cultural-objects/>

¹² <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/publications/commentary-on-the-1970-unesco-convention/>

Three TV spots¹³ and a cartoon in Iraq¹⁴

27. The UNESCO Office in Bagdad has produced three TV spots in Arabic, aired in 2012 by Iraqi TV channels to raise public awareness, especially in local populations, about the dangers of illicit trafficking in Iraqi cultural property (available online).

28. In 2013, this Office also produced a cartoon in Arabic to raise awareness in young Iraqis of the importance of preserving their cultural heritage. This video was funded by the off-budget contribution from the Swiss Federal Office of Culture (available online).

5 “Heritage is identity, don’t steal it” video clips for Africa, the Caribbean, East Asia and South-East Asia¹⁵

29. These videos primarily target tourists, who are likely to be confronted with proposals of illicit cultural property during their travels. They were also designed to alert local communities to the loss of their heritage. The video is distributed through UNESCO networks and under the campaign “Your Actions Count – Be a Responsible Traveller”, officially launched at the International Travel Tradeshow in Berlin (5 March 2014).

Video clip “Help save the cultural heritage of Syria”¹⁶

30. In August 2013, the UNESCO Office in Amman produced a video clip to raise public awareness on the importance of Syria’s cultural heritage, drawing attention to the current situation and the need to preserve the heritage for future generations.

I.4.3 Awareness raising campaigns

Campaign targeting tourists

31. On 5 March 2014, at the International Travel Tradeshow in Berlin, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, the Executive Director of UNOCD and the Director-General of UNESCO launched a global campaign to prevent trafficking. This campaign entitled “Your Actions Count – Be a Responsible Traveller” encourages tourists to adopt responsible behaviour in situations of trafficking in people, endangered species, cultural property and counterfeit medicines and goods.

Media and awareness-raising campaign to combat trafficking in cultural property in South America (March 2014)

32. The UNESCO Office in Montevideo Uruguayan National Commission for UNESCO launched a media campaign to raise public awareness of action taken to combat cultural property trafficking in South America¹⁷. This included a competition of “Posters against cultural property trafficking”. A video clip was produced to draw attention to the current smuggling of cultural property in the MERCOSUR countries, while highlighting the work accomplished by UNESCO and its partners to prevent trafficking in cultural property in the region (available online).

¹³ TV spots: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOMsz5XuUYo>

¹⁴ Cartoon: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Lw5yLKWR10>

¹⁵ Video clips: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU6mLmBeHW4>

¹⁶ Long version: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kra3e0DL5sA> ;

Short version: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUh4Ma0Doc>

¹⁷ Official title: “Programa de prevención del tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales de la UNESCO”

33. The UNESCO Office in Lima and the Ministry of Culture of Peru published a magazine entitled “No robes el pasado”¹⁸. This magazine for children and young people sets out in comic strips the inherent risks of cultural property trafficking and the need to protect the national and regional heritage for the enjoyment of future generations. Posters depicting the magazine cover page were also distributed (available online).

Regional campaign for the Maghreb¹⁹

34. A regional awareness raising campaign was carried out concurrently in partnership with local authorities. In addition to producing communication aids (posters, postcards and stickers), a series of awareness raising clips aimed both at local communities and tourists, dedicated to combating trafficking in the North Africa region, is being produced. A comic for children on heritage protection will soon be published.

1.4.4 Exhibitions

35. 31 original works of art were exhibited at the UNESCO Headquarters from 19 June to 6 July 2012. These objects, from the 4th century B.C. to the 17th century A.D., had been stolen or illicitly exported from their country of origin and were recovered by the Italian Carabinieri Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, in synergic collaboration with Police Forces and Judicial Authorities of Switzerland, France, the United States of America, Greece and Ecuador.

1.5 Training and capacity building

36. Since 2012, the Secretariat of the Convention has been regularly providing several training and capacity building programmes in every region of the world, granting priority to East and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia, and South-East Asia. A list of some of these courses is shown in the table below:

| Dates | Place | Title | Participants (countries and individuals) | | Funded by |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2009-2014 Phase II (2012-2014) | Mongolia | Capacity-building project in Mongolia to combat illicit trafficking in cultural objects in Mongolia. (Phase II: Operational Action) | 1 country | NA | UNESCO/Monaco Funds - In-Trust Cooperation |
| 2012-2013 | Egypt | Capacity-building and awareness-raising on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in Egypt | NA | NA | Switzerland (FOC) |
| 6-8 June 2012 | Beirut (Lebanon) | Regional seminar on the protection of cultural heritage | 7 countries | NA | Regular programme |
| 17-19 September 2012 | Dakar (Senegal) | Capacity-building and awareness-raising on the fight against trafficking of cultural property in West Africa | 15 countries | 43 participants (30% of whom were women) | Netherlands + Emergency Fund |
| 23-25 October 2012 | Lima (Peru) | Capacity-building and awareness-raising on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property | 7 countries | 39 participants (48% of whom were | Emergency Fund |

¹⁸ « Don't steal the past » : <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226971S.pdf>

¹⁹<http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/awareness-raising-initiatives/postcards-maghreb/>

+ video clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oHLXI-252c#t=59>

| | | | | women) | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 29-31 October 2012 | Buenos Aires (Argentina) | First South-American meeting of officials specialized in the fight against the trafficking of cultural property | 7 countries | 30 participants (20% of whom were women) | Emergency Fund |
| 5-7 November 2012 | Gaborone (Botswana) | Workshop on prevention and fight against trafficking of cultural goods in Southern Africa | 10 countries | 37 participants (35% of whom were women) | Netherlands + Emergency Fund |
| 19-21 November 2012 | Gaziantep (Turkey) | Building capacities for the fight against the trafficking of cultural property in South-East Europe | 11 countries | 44 participants (43% of whom were women) | Emergency Fund |
| 3-5 December 2012 | Castries (Sainte- Lucie) | Regional Seminar on the Fight against Trafficking in Cultural Property for the Caribbean | 13 countries | 31 participants (42% of whom were women) | Netherlands + Emergency Fund |
| 3-5 February 2013 | Muscat (Oman) | National comprehensive capacity- building training course and awareness-raising activities on the fight against trafficking in cultural property | 1 country | 26 participants (27% of whom were women) | Regular programme |
| 10-13 February 2013 | Amman (Jordan) | Syrian Heritage: strategy for fighting against the trafficking of cultural property | 5 countries | 53 participants (32% of whom were women) | Switzerland (FOC) |
| 8-10 April 2013 | Bamako Mali | Intensifying the fight against trafficking of cultural property in West Africa | 7 countries | NA | Regular programme |
| 27-30 April 2013 | Tripoli (Libya) | Introductory workshop on Prevention and Fight against Trafficking of Libyan Cultural Property | 1 country | 70 participants | Italy |
| 23-25 July 2013 | Asunción (Paraguay) | Second meeting on the fight against trafficking of cultural property in the Southern Cone | 6 countries | 50 participants | Spain (AECID) |
| 15-26 September 2013 | Sabratha (Libya) | Training workshop for the Libyan Police on the prevention and fight against trafficking of cultural property | 1 country | 68 participants | Italy |
| 17-26 November 2013 | Shahat (Libya) | Training workshop for the Libyan Police on the prevention and fight against trafficking of cultural property | 1 country | NA | Italy |
| 27-29 November 2013 | Casablanca (Morocco) | Regional Training Workshop on the fight against trafficking in cultural property for Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia | 4 countries | 36 participants (39% of whom were women) | Spain (AECID) |
| 3-5 December 2013 | Lima (Peru) | Subregional training workshop on the fight against trafficking of cultural property in the Andean region/Central America | 6 countries | 17 participants (41% of whom were women) | Spain (AECID) |
| 16-17 December 2013 | Kathmandu (Nepal) | An international symposium entitled "Protecting Asia's heritage: Strategies for fighting illicit traffic of cultural property" | 10 countries | 114 participants | Regular programme |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 31 March - 2 April 2014 | Cairo (Egypt) | Introductory UNESCO workshop on the prevention and fight against trafficking of cultural goods in Egypt | 1 country | NA | Switzerland (FOC) |
| 23-26 June 2014 | Port-au-Prince (Haiti) | Building capacities for the fight against the trafficking of cultural property in Haiti | 1 country | NA | Regular programme |
| 13-17 October 2014 | Rome (Italy) | Seminar to combat trafficking in cultural property (Macedonia) | 1 country | 25 | Regular programme |
| 10-14 November 2014 | Beirut (Lebanon) | Seminar to combat trafficking in Syrian cultural property | 5 countries | 34 | European Union + Flemish Government |
| 19-21 November 2014 | Bangkok (Thailand) | UNESCO sub-regional symposium on the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage in South-East Asia | 11 countries | 55 | Netherlands |
| 20-24 April 2015 | Meknes (Morocco) | Regional Workshop to train instructors to combat trafficking in cultural property | 4 countries | 36 | Spain (AECID) |
| TOTAL | 26 host countries | | 132 countries | Approx. 1,000 participants | |

I.4 International cooperation

I.6.1 Cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations

37. Since 2007, cooperation is relentlessly increasing between UNESCO and INTERPOL, UNIDROIT, WCO, UNODC, ICOM, ICCROM and ICOMOS and with the specialized police corps of the Carabinieri (Italy), the Office Central de Lutte contre le Trafic des Biens Culturels (OCBC, France), and the Guardia Civil (Spain).

38. Those organizations communicate frequently with each other, particularly in regard to thefts and illicit exports of cultural property worldwide and procedures for its restitution. Such cooperation yields tangible results such as the implementation of highly operational professional networks, lawful restitutions of cultural property and an improvement in the legal and practical framework for combating the pillaging and illicit transfer of cultural property (refer to, in particular: "Return or restitution of cultural property"²⁰).

39. On 1st April 2015, a high-level meeting was called by the Director-General of UNESCO to plan the effective implementation of Resolution 2199 of the United Nations Security Council, adopted on 12 February. Representatives from INTERPOL, UNODC, WCO, UNIDROIT, ICCROM, ICOM, ICOMOS and IFLA participated, in addition to the Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team against Al-Qaida. These key UNESCO partners have accepted to step up their cooperation and information exchange to improve the protection of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq²¹.

I.6.2. European Union

40. The European Union actively supports cultural property protection and the fight against trafficking in close collaboration with UNESCO and other international partners. A 2.5 million euro project was launched in 2014 with UNESCO for Syria's heritage and is being implemented through the Beirut Office.

²⁰ <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/restitution-of-cultural-property/>

²¹ refer to document C70/15/3.MSP/9, paragraph 38

Expert group against trafficking and revision of European Directive 93/7

41. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture is currently working to create an expert group on the fight against trafficking in cultural property. Following the brainstorming meeting held on 18 October 2013 by the European Commission with its strategic partners including UNESCO, the member States accepted the European Commission's proposal to comply with its conclusions regarding the Code of Ethics, and to develop guidelines in connection with the revision of Directive 93/7 adopted with the new Working Plan for Culture (Directive 2014/60/UE). UNESCO and UNIDROIT were consulted and provided their technical and legal assistance to the revision of the Directive, which will come into effect on 19 December 2015.

European Union – African Union partnership²²

42. As part of the "Africa-EU" partnership and stepped up cooperation between the two organisations, a project evaluated at 10 million euros is being negotiated for the fight against trafficking of cultural property in Africa. This project aims to encourage the ratification of the Convention in Africa and improve its implementation by providing the States with support for training against trafficking, in digitising cultural artefacts and developing awareness-raising activities.

I.6.3 The art market

43. The Convention Secretariat has taken a growing number of art-market initiatives in recent years in order to alert professionals more effectively to the need to combat trafficking in cultural property and to achieve better cooperation in the context of identifying stolen objects, seizure and restitution. The goal is to promote more awareness of member States' concerns about the looting of cultural property, especially archaeological, the circulation of works of art and the restitution of cultural property, as well as to promote more transparency in the methods and best working practices in the art market.

44. Accordingly, 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 (Paris), Artcurial, Bonhams, etc.). Thanks to the contacts established on those various occasions, the Convention Secretariat encouraged, in many cases, early contact with national authorities and auction-house managers in order to seek explanations on certain artefacts on sale and thus secure restitutions, if necessary.

45. At the instigation of the Director-General of UNESCO, discussions with the international art world are held in order to improve practices and awareness-raising in areas such as provenance enquiries, ethics, restitution procedures and better knowledge of the international legal system and national legislations and issues at stake. Accordingly, in March 2013, the Director-General appealed to art-market operators to enquire routinely into the origin of cultural artefacts offered for sale, and to respect the principles and spirit of the 1970 and UNIDROIT 1995 Conventions on stolen and illegally imported cultural goods. The market is also encouraged to take action in implementing the Resolution 2199 of the United Nations Security Council so as to actively participate in the efforts to fight against trafficking in Syrian and Iraqi cultural property.

I.6.4. Museums

²²

<http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/fr>

46. The Secretariat is developing several partnerships with internationally renowned museums, notably with the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. The goal of this project is to reduce trafficking in Iraqi and Syrian cultural property based on three main action pathways:

- implementing awareness raising activities for the general public in art market countries;
- close collaboration in information exchange;
- cooperation in training and capacity-building.

The agreement between UNESCO and the museum will be officially launched in May 2015.

I.6.5. Colbert Committee

47. The Secretariat has initiated an original partnership with the members of the Colbert Committee. Funded in 1954, the Colbert Committee unites 78 French luxury fashion houses and cultural institutions around shared values, foremost of which are ethics. The Secretariat and the Colbert Committee have designed a media campaign aimed at raising awareness in travellers of illicit dealings in cultural property and counterfeiting. The campaign will be officially launched on 8 June 2015 in Paris.

II. RESOURCES

II.1 IOS assessment results

48. In 2013, UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) conducted an assessment of the six conventions in the area of Culture, to evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of UNESCO standard-setting work. This report was published in September 2013 (IOS/AUD/2013/06) and presented to the Executive Board at its 192nd session (192 EX/5 Part II). The Executive Board, notes the importance of improving the quality of causal analysis and of providing clear evidence of the impact brought about by UNESCO's standard-setting work and invited the Director-General to implement the recommendations, except where they require a decision from the Executive Board and/or the General Conference, in which case the relevant question must be submitted to the consideration of the Executive Board (192 EX/Decision 5 Part II). Decision 194 EX/22 of the Executive Board approved the assessment and invited the Director-General to "facilitate the development of action plans addressing the evaluation recommendations" and to "continue her efforts to ensure that all Internal Oversight Service recommendations are properly implemented within a reasonable timeframe in consultation with the competent governing bodies if required [...]".

49. The Culture Sector held an Information Meeting on 29 January 2015, including the assessment of the working methods of the six conventions in the Culture area and the audit specifically conducted on the 1970 Convention by the IOS. Follow-up is also provided by the Cultural Conventions Liaison Group (CCLG), which notably monitors cost control by reducing meeting frequency and, as far as possible, the duration and agenda of meetings of States Parties, as well as translation and interpreting fees.

50. The IOS assessment also specifically recommended streamlining working methods and finding synergies between the Convention Secretariats. Since July 2014, the Conventions Common Services Unit has been supplying assistance to all Cultural Convention Secretariats and preparing and translating statutory documents, preparing publications, web development, raising funds and awareness in stakeholders. Its effectiveness will be assessed after the meeting of the Subsidiary Committee in July 2015, to as to take into consideration the examination of a full year.

II.2 Financial resources

II.2.1 Budget resources of the regular programme

51. For the 2014-2015 period, the Secretariat had USD 766,200 of the regular programme for the activities conducted at the Headquarters and off-Headquarters.

II.2.2 Extrabudgetary resources

52. The implementation of the Convention by the Secretariat largely relies on support from the States Parties and external partners, to which the Secretariat expresses its deepest gratitude.

53. Financial contributions for the 2012-2015 period are presented in the table below:

| State | Allocation |
|--------------------------|--|
| Bahrain | Arabic translation of <i>"Witnesses to History – Documents and writings on the return of cultural objects"</i> |
| Belgium | Associated expert contract |
| China | 2 ^e Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention and 18th Session of the Return- Restitution Committee Extraordinary meeting of the States Parties and 1 st Session of the Subsidiary Committee |
| Spain | Full training programmes and awareness raising activities on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in Latin America Full training programmes and awareness raising activities on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in North Africa Spanish interpreting of the 18 th Session of the Return- Restitution Committee Regional Workshop to train instructors to combat trafficking in cultural property in Meknes |
| United States | UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws |
| Greece | 2 ^e Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention and 18th Session of the Return- Restitution Committee |
| Italy | Training workshop for the Libyan Police on the prevention and fight against trafficking of cultural property Introductory workshop on Prevention and Fight against Trafficking of Libyan Cultural Property Training workshop for the Libyan Police on the prevention and fight against trafficking of cultural property Training workshop for the Libyan Police on the prevention and fight against trafficking of cultural property |
| Monaco | Capacity-building project in Mongolia to combat trafficking in cultural items in Mongolia. (Phase II: Operational Action) |
| Netherlands | Seminar to combat trafficking in Caribbean cultural property Production of a video to raise awareness of trafficking in cultural property UNESCO sub-regional symposium on the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage in South-East Asia |
| Republic of Korea | 2 ^e Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention and 18th Session of the Return- Restitution Committee |
| Switzerland | "Recovered Treasures" exhibition Meeting on the protection of Syrian cultural heritage Extraordinary meeting of the States Parties and 1 st Session of the Subsidiary Committee Production of a video to raise awareness of trafficking in cultural property French translation of <i>"Witnesses to History – Documents and writings on the return of cultural objects"</i> Training programmes and awareness raising activities on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in Egypt Study database on cases of returns of cultural property |
| Turkey | 2 ^e Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention and 18th Session of the Return- |

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| Restitution Committee Seconded expert's contract (Mrs. Zeynep Boz) 3 rd Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention |
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II.3 Human resources

54. The Convention Secretariat is provided by two permanent members, a programme Specialist and an Assistant secretary, backed up by an expert seconded by Turkey, a temporary employee and two consultants. During the 196th session of the Executive Board, it was stated that two P1/P2 regular programme positions would reinforce the Convention Secretariat, thereby responding to the recommendations expressed by the Assessment Report on the standard-setting work of the UNESCO Culture Sector by the IOS (Part II).

55. The meeting of the States Parties may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 3.MSP/6

The meeting of the States Parties:

1. Having examined document C70/15/3.MSP/6,
2. Thanks those States Parties which have generously contributed financial support for the activities conducted by the Secretariat;
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the Secretariat's report on its activities from June 2012 to May 2015;
4. Welcomes the many training activities carried out by the Secretariat and UNESCO field offices, their growing scope and the continued effectiveness of the global capacity-building strategy;
5. Also welcomes action taken to raise awareness of the fight against trafficking in cultural property;
6. Invites States Parties to strengthen their support for activities carried out to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention by making financial and/or human resources available;
7. Encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement the Convention and invites it to present another report on its activities at its fourth meeting.