

STOP ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

Statement of the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO 1970 Convention

18-20 May 2015
Initiative by Greece

The Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the “Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property”,

Recognizing that in a world characterized by rapid change and innovation, the international community has to face illicit trade of cultural property as a severe form of trafficking,

Deeply concerned about the current situation in many parts of the world where massive destruction and the looting of cultural heritage as well as illegal excavations, result in the increasing illegal trade of cultural property,

Urges States to become parties to the UNESCO 1970 Convention;

Makes an appeal to all States to adopt specific measures according to international law, including the UNESCO 1970 Convention, in order to prevent illicit trafficking and the destruction and pillaging of cultural property on their territory, and also referring in this regard to the recently adopted Operational Guidelines to the UNESCO 1970 Convention;

Stresses the need for intergovernmental cooperation on the matter, as well as active participation of all interested third parties especially those active in the fields of art and culture;

Underlines the need for respect of the UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property and the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums;

Calls upon States, media and other stakeholders, to raise public awareness concerning the respect and protection of cultural property.