

PAKISTAN
PERIODIC REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1954 HAGUE
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE
EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT 1954

At a time when the impact of globalization on the world cultural diversity is increasingly being felt, UNESCO places particular emphasis on the need to protect diversity and safeguard the world's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Pakistan like many other peaceful countries, has all along been supporting the Resolution & Recommendations sponsored at the Universal Nations General Assembly and the General Conference of UNESCO for the promotion of international cooperation.

2. Pakistan is a signatory of the 1954 Hague Convention and protocol for the protection on Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Besides, being the State Party of the World Heritage Convention (1972) Pakistan respects the entire Cultural Heritage of mankind located all around the World. In this capacity it has always offered its services and cooperation for the safeguarding of cultural Heritage of mankind. Pakistan has tried its best level along with the international community to protect and preserve the Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan, which has been damaged due to war in the country.

3. A brief account of progress report on the implementation of the Hague convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict is submitted as under:-

4. Pakistan has enacted a Law entitled "The Antiquities Act, 1975" which repeals and re-enacts the laws relating to the preservation and protection of antiquities in the country. Government of Pakistan has also framed a number of rules and regulations under the Antiquities Act, 1975 (passed by the Parliament) to resolve the problems relating to the cultural heritage and to ensure proper preservation and protection of its both movable and immovable cultural heritage.

iii. Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan has enlisted 103 sites/monuments in its 'National Register' in term of Antiquities Act, 1975 for their proper safeguarding, preservation and protection. Besides, special branches in the Department of Archaeology and Museums have been established which are known as Antiquities Trade Control Branches which are located in the Directorate General of Archaeology and Museums, Islamabad and at all the four Provincial Headquarters i.e. Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Hyderabad, to take necessary steps and measures for proper protection of cultural heritage of the country.

6. In accordance with Article 25 of the Convention, necessary steps/measures are being taken to disseminate the text of the Convention and the Regulations for its execution to include in the study of the programmes of the military personnels as well as civilian trainings engaged in the protection of cultural property.

7. Under the frame work of World Heritage Convention, 1972, UNESCO has inscribed the following sites/monuments of Pakistan on its World Heritage List:-

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL RUINS AT MOENJODARO

Moenjodaro is situated about 510 K.M. north of Karachi in the District of Larkana of Sindh Province of Pakistan. It is in fact the most important metro-police of the great Indus Civilization which flourish from 2500 to 1700 B.C. The site is visited by a large number of vistous both from home and abroad and the entry to the site is through admission tickets.

The archaeological site of Moenjodaro is adequately away from Industrial Center or from Military vulnerable point such as, broadcasting station, establishment engaged upon work of national defence, a port or railway station of relative importance on a main line of communication. A civil Airport is however constructed near the site for the convenience of tourists.

ii) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RICHNESS OF TAXILA

The archaeological and cultural richness of Taxila Valley during the early historical period (6th Century B.C. to 5th Century A.D.) is well known to the world by the excavations of Sir John Marshall. During the course of excavations three important city sites namely Bhir Mound, Sirkap and Sirsukh and more than two dozens Buddhist stupas and monasteries have been excavated. The site is visited by millions of visitors both from home and abroad and the entry to the site is through admission tickets.

The archaeological sites of Taxila are close from the Industrial areas which are important from the military point of view. Besides, a railway station on the main line of communication is near the archaeological sites.

iii) BUDDHIST REMAINS AT TAKHI-E-BAHI, DISTRICT MARDAN

Takhi-e-Bahi is one of the best known sites of ancient Gandhara, in Pakistan. The monastic settlement and the stupas which flourished from 1st to the 5th century A.D. are located at a distance of about 15 K.M. north-east of Mardan. The site is situated on a rocky ridge about 500 feet above the surrounding plain. The excavations conducted at the site over the past many years, have exposed the structural remains of the main stupa within a court-yard from which a stair leads down into a court graced with a number of votive stupas. The archaeological site of the Takhi-e-Bahi site is visited by millions of tourists from home and abroad.

It is adequately away from Industrial centre or from Military vulnerable points such as an aerodrome, broadcasting station, establishment engaged upon work of national defence, a port or railway station of relative importance on a main line of communication.

iv) HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF MAKLI HILL, THATA

Makli Hill Monuments, Thatta are located on the National Highway, about 3 K.M. west of Thatta town in District Thatta, Sindh Province in Pakistan. It is the greatest necropolis in the world as the graveyard is spread over an of 9 K.M. (912 acres). It is replete with history of 400 glorious years when Suman (1340 to 1520 A.D.) the Arghuns (1320 to 1355 A.D.) the Tarkhans (1355 to 1592 A.D.) and the Moughals (1592 to 1739 A.D.) ruled over Sindh with their capital at Thatta. The Makli Hill Monuments are visited by millions of tourists from home and abroad.

The Makli Hill Monuments are adequately away from Industrial Center or from Military vulnerable point such as an aerodrome, broadcasting station, establishment engaged upon work of national defence, a port or railway station of relative importance on a main line of communication.

v) FORT AND SHALIMAR GARDENS, LAHORE

Fort and Shalimar Gardens, Lahore are two masterpieces from the time of the brilliant Mughal Dynasty, which reached its height during the reign of the emperor Shah Jehan. Lahore Fort contains marble palaces and mosques decorated with mosaics and gilt. The elegance of splendid gardens, built on three terraces with lodges, water falls and large ornamental ponds, is unequalled.

Fort and Shalimar Gardens, Lahore are adequately away from Industrial Center or from Military vulnerable point such as, broadcasting station, establishment engaged upon work of national defence, a port or railway station of relative importance on a main line of communication. These monuments are visited by a large number of visitors both from home and abroad and the entry to the site is through admission tickets.

VI ROHTAS FORT, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

Rohtas Fort was built by King Sher Shah Suri in 1541 A.D. It is built on a strong fortified complex, at a strategic site. The main fortification consist of the massive walls, which extend for more than 4 km. they are lined with bastions and pierced by monumental gateways. Rohtas Fort, also called Qila Rohtas, is an exceptional example of early Muslim military architecture in Central and South Asia.

Rohtas Fort is adequately away from Industrial Center or from Military vulnerable point such as, broadcasting station, establishment engaged upon work of national defence, a port or railway station of relative importance on a main line of communication.