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PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
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<u>**Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda**</u>: **World Heritage and Sustainable Development**

INF.13: Draft Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention

SUMMARY

This document contains the draft of a policy to integrate a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, in conformity with the Committee Decision **36 COM 5C**, and also contains actions that are envisaged for the implementation of the policy.

This document is to be read in conjunction with *WHC-15/20.GA/13*.

I. THE NEED FOR A POLICY

1. Recognising that the 1972 *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* is an integral part of UNESCO's overarching mandate to foster equitable sustainable development[1] and to promote peace and security[2], and with a view to ensuring policy coherence with the UN sustainable development agenda as enshrined in the document "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"[3], existing international humanitarian standards and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), States Parties should "ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development, so that World Heritage properties can be protected through appropriate activities contributing to the social and economic development and the quality of life of our communities"[4].

2. In the current context of changing demographics and climate, growing inequalities, diminishing resources, and growing threats to heritage, the need has become apparent to view conservation objectives, including those promoted by the World Heritage Convention, within a broader range of economic, social and environmental values and needs encompassed in the sustainable development concept.

3. By identifying, protecting, conserving, presenting and transmitting to present and future generations irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage properties of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the World Heritage Convention, in itself, contributes significantly to sustainable development and the wellbeing of people[5]. At the same time, strengthening the three dimensions of sustainable development that are environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, and inclusive economic development, as well as the fostering of peace and security[6], may bring benefits to World Heritage properties and support their OUV, if carefully integrated within their conservation and management systems.

4. In addition to protecting the OUV of World Heritage properties, States Parties should, therefore, recognise and promote the properties' inherent potential to contribute to all dimensions of sustainable development and work to harness the collective benefits for society, also by ensuring that their conservation and management strategies are aligned with broader sustainable development objectives. In this process, the properties' OUV should not be compromised.

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[1] A glossary for key terms is provided in the appendix.

[2] These are the two overarching goals of UNESCO as defined by the Organization's Medium Term Strategy (the C4), accessible from: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/bureau-of-strategic-planning/resources/medium-term-strategy-c4/

[3] This document is accessible from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.85&Lang=E . More information on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be found at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891Transforming%20Our%20World.pdf

[4] Quote from the Budapest Declaration, accessible from http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/1334

[5] The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises this and includes the protection and safeguarding of the world cultural and natural heritage as a specific target of one of its 17 'Sustainable Development Goals, notably N. 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

[6] This framework and dimensions of sustainable development have been borrowed from the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. The integration of a sustainable development perspective into the World Heritage Convention will enable all stakeholders involved in its implementation, in particular at national level, to act with social responsibility. This process will enhance World Heritage as a global leader and standard-setter for best practice, also by helping to promote – through the over 1000 listed properties worldwide – innovative models of sustainable development. Furthermore, the introduction of this policy appears necessary since, ultimately, if the heritage sector does not fully embrace sustainable development and harness the reciprocal benefits for heritage and society, it will find itself a victim of, rather than a catalyst for, wider change.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6. States Parties should recognise, by appropriate means, that World Heritage conservation and management strategies that incorporate a sustainable development perspective embrace not only the protection of the OUV, but also the wellbeing of present and future generations.

7. Such strategies should be based on the following overarching principles: [7]

   i. **Human Rights[8] -** The human rights embedded in the UN Charter and the range of broadly ratified human rights instruments reflect fundamental values that underpin the very possibility for dignity, peace and sustainable development. In implementing the World Heritage Convention, it is therefore essential to respect, protect and promote these environmental, social, economic, and cultural rights.
   ii. **Equality:** The reduction of inequalities in all societies is essential to a vision of inclusive sustainable development. The conservation and management of World Heritage properties should therefore contribute to reducing inequalities, as well as its structural causes, including discrimination and exclusion.
   iii. **Sustainability, through a long-term perspective:** Sustainability, broadly defined, is inherent to the spirit of the World Heritage Convention. It should serve as a fundamental principle for all aspects of development and for all societies. In the context of the World Heritage Convention, this means applying a long-term perspective to all processes of decision-making within World Heritage properties, with a view to fostering intergenerational equity, justice, and a world fit for present and future generations.

8. In applying a sustainable development perspective within the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, States Parties should also recognise the close links and interdependence of biological diversity and local cultures within the socio-ecological systems of many World Heritage properties. These have often developed over time through mutual adaptation between humans and the environment, interacting with

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[7]These principles derive from the UN Task Team Report "Realizing the Future We Want for All", accessible from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

[8] Specific provisions on Human Rights are addressed in Section III as a component of inclusive social development.

and affecting one another in complex ways, and are fundamental components of the resilience of communities. This suggests that any policy aiming to achieve sustainable development will necessarily have to take into consideration the interrelationship of biological diversity with the local cultural context.

9. All dimensions of sustainable development should apply to natural, cultural and mixed properties in their diversity. These dimensions are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, with none having predominance over another and each being equally necessary. States Parties should therefore review and reinforce governance frameworks within management systems of World Heritage properties in order to achieve the appropriate balance, integration and harmonization between the protection of OUV and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives. This will include the full respect and participation of all stakeholders and rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, the setting up of effective inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and provisions for the systematic assessment of environmental, social, and economic impacts of all proposed developments, as well as effective monitoring through continuity in data collection against agreed indicators.

10. States Parties should further recognise that, for many World Heritage properties, achieving sustainable development will require acting at a scale that is much larger than the property itself and that, in the process, some dimensions of sustainable development may prove to be of greater relevance than others. Thus, States Parties should integrate conservation and management approaches for World Heritage properties within their larger regional planning frameworks, giving consideration in particular to the integrity of socio-ecological systems. In this context, the potential of buffer zones (and other similar tools) should be fully harnessed. They need to be understood not only as added layers of protection but also as planning tools to enhance mutual benefits for local and other concerned communities and for the heritage itself. In addition, this policy should be considered as general guidance, since its individual provisions will not necessarily apply to all World Heritage properties, and mechanisms will need to be put in place to ensure they are applied, where relevant.

11. The integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention will require the building of necessary capacities among practitioners, institutions, concerned communities and networks, across a wide interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial spectrum. To this end, States Parties should promote scientific studies and research, develop tools and guidelines, organize training and provide quality education through a variety of learning environments tailored to each audience; in doing so, the potential contribution of non-governmental organisations should be taken into account. A focus on cultural and biological diversity as well as the linkages between the conservation of cultural and natural heritage and the various dimensions of sustainable development will enable all those concerned to better engage with World Heritage, protect its OUV and fully harness its potential benefits for communities.

12. While the policy is specifically aimed at World Heritage properties, its principles are relevant to cultural and natural heritage in general, in the spirit of Article 5 of the 1972 Convention. Moreover, while this policy is aimed primarily at States Parties, the implementation of its provisions will often require the contribution and support of the Secretariat, the Advisory Bodies and other relevant bodies.

III. DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

13. The role of World Heritage properties as a guarantee of sustainable development needs to be strengthened. Their full potential to contribute to sustainable development needs to be harnessed. To this end, States Parties in implementing the Convention should consider the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely environmental sustainability, inclusive social development and inclusive economic development, together with the fostering of peace and security. These reflect the concern for "planet, people, prosperity and peace", identified as areas of critical importance in the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development[9].

Environmental Sustainability

14. The World Heritage Convention promotes sustainable development, and in particular environmental sustainability, by valuing and conserving places of outstanding natural heritage value, containing exceptional biodiversity, geodiversity or other exceptional natural features, which are essential for human well-being. A concern for environmental sustainability, however, should equally apply to cultural and mixed World Heritage properties, including cultural landscapes. In implementing the Convention, States Parties should therefore promote environmental sustainability more generally to all World Heritage properties to ensure policy coherence and mutual supportiveness with other multilateral environmental agreements. This involves a responsible interaction with the environment in both cultural and natural properties, to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources, ensuring long-term environmental quality and the strengthening of resilience to disasters and climate change.

Protecting biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services and benefits

15. States Parties should ensure that biological and cultural diversity, as well as ecosystem services and benefits for people that contribute to environmental sustainability, are protected and enhanced within World Heritage properties, their buffer zones and their wider settings[10]. To this end, States Parties should:

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[9] See page 2 and 3 of the cited document "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The fifth "p", for "partnership", referred to in the document, could be understood as the World Heritage Convention itself, which is the most important international instrument of cooperation in the area of heritage conservation.

[10] A systematic and comprehensive analysis of benefits of natural World Heritage properties, including their contribution to well-being has been recently provided in: Osipova, E., Wilson, L., Blaney, R., Shi, Y., Fancourt, M., Strubel, M., Salvaterra, T., Brown, C. and Verschuuren, B. (2014). *The benefits of natural World Heritage:*

i.   Integrate consideration for biological and cultural diversity as well as ecosystem services and benefits within the conservation and management of all World Heritage properties, including mixed and cultural ones,

ii. Avoid, and if not possible mitigate, all negative impacts on the environment and cultural diversity when conserving and managing World Heritage properties and their wider settings. This can be achieved by promoting environmental, social and cultural impact assessment tools when undertaking planning in sectors such as urban development, transport, infrastructure, mining and waste management - as well as by applying sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the use of renewable energy sources.

Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change

16. In the face of increasing disaster risks and the impact of climate change, States Parties should recognise that World Heritage represents both an asset to be protected and a resource to strengthen the ability of communities and their properties to resist, absorb, and recover from the effects of a hazard. In line with disaster risks[11] and climate change multilateral agreements, States Parties should:

i.   Recognise and promote – within conservation and management strategies - the inherent potential of World Heritage properties for reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change, through associated ecosystem services, traditional knowledge and practices and strengthened social cohesion;

ii. Reduce the vulnerability of World Heritage properties and their settings as well as promote the social and economic resilience of local and associated communities to disaster and climate change through structural and non-structural measures, including public awareness-raising, training and education. Structural measures, in particular, should not adversely affect the OUV of World Heritage properties;

iii. Enhance preparedness for effective response and "building-back-better" in post-disaster recovery strategies within management systems and conservation practice for World Heritage properties.

Inclusive Social Development

17. The World Heritage Convention in Article 5 calls upon States Parties to "adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community". States Parties should recognise that inclusive social development is at the heart of the implementation of this provision of the Convention. States Parties should further recognise that full inclusion, respect and equity of all stakeholders, including local and concerned communities and indigenous peoples,

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Identifying and assessing ecosystem services and benefits provided by the world's most iconic natural places. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. vi + 58 pp: https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/2014-045.pdf

[11] Within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, these include the *Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties* (2007), (accessible from: http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2007/whc07-31com-72e.pdf) and the *Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties* (2008) (accessible from: http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/441/)

together with a commitment to gender equality, are a fundamental premise for inclusive social development. Enhancing quality of life and well-being in and around World Heritage properties is essential, taking into account communities who might not visit or reside in or near properties but are still stakeholders. Inclusive social development must be underpinned by inclusive governance.

Contributing to inclusion and equity

18. States Parties should ensure that the conservation and management of World Heritage properties is based on recognition of cultural diversity, inclusion and equity. To this end, States Parties should commit to and implement policies, interventions, and practices of conservation and management in and around World Heritage properties that achieve the following for all stakeholders, and in particular for local communities:

   i. Improve the ability, opportunities, and dignity of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;
   ii. Promote equity, reduce social and economic inequalities and reduce exclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;
   iii. Recognise, respect, and include the values as well as cultural and environmental place-knowledge of local communities.

Enhancing quality of life and well-being

19. World Heritage properties have the potential to enhance quality of life and wellbeing of all stakeholders, and in particular local communities. Therefore, in implementing the Convention, and whilst fully respecting OUV, States Parties should:

   i. Adopt adequate measures to ensure the availability of basic infrastructure and services for communities in and around World Heritage properties;
   ii. Promote and enhance environmental health (including the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation) for all;
   iii. Recognise that World Heritage properties themselves often play a direct role in providing food, clean water and medicinal plants and ensure measures are in place for their protection and use in an equitable way.

Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights

20. The obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms is addressed in Article 1 of the UNESCO Constitution. UNESCO has also committed to the mainstreaming of human rights in its work and has agreed to adopt a human rights-based approach to programming[12]. To ensure policy coherence in conserving

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[12] UNESCO Constitution is available from: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226924e.pdf#page=6 and the 2003 UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights is available from: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001457/145734e.pdf

and managing World Heritage properties, States Parties should commit to uphold, respect and contribute to the implementation of the full range of international human rights standards as a pre-requisite for effectively achieving sustainable development. To this end, States Parties should:

i. Ensure that the full cycle of World Heritage processes from nomination to management is compatible with and supportive of human rights;
ii. Adopt a rights-based approach, which promotes World Heritage properties as exemplary places for the application of the highest standards for the respect and realization of human rights;
iii. Develop, through equitable participation of concerned people, relevant standards and safeguards, guidance tools and operational mechanisms for assessment, nomination, management, evaluation and reporting processes compatible with an effective rights-based approach for both existing and potential new properties;
iv. Promote technical cooperation and capacity-building to ensure effective rights-based approaches.

Respecting, consulting and involving indigenous peoples and local communities

21. The World Heritage Convention includes, as one of its strategic objectives (the fifth 'C') "to enhance the role of communities in (its) implementation" (Decision 31 COM 13B). The World Heritage Committee specifically encourages the effective and equitable involvement and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of World Heritage properties and the respect of indigenous peoples' rights in nominating, managing and reporting on World Heritage properties in their own territories (Decision 35 COM 12E). Recognising rights and fully involving indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with international standards[13] is at the heart of sustainable development.

22. To fulfil this strategic objective of the Convention and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development, States Parties should:

i. Develop relevant standards, guidance and operational mechanisms for indigenous peoples and local community involvement in World Heritage processes;
ii. Ensure adequate consultations, the free, prior and informed consent and equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples where World Heritage nomination, management and policy measures affect their territories, lands, resources and ways of life[14];
iii. Actively promote indigenous and local initiatives to develop equitable governance arrangements, collaborative management systems and, when appropriate, redress mechanisms;

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[13] Such as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and accessible from: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf*
[14] See also paragraph 123 of the Operational Guidelines, specifically in relation to the nomination process.

iv. Support appropriate activities contributing to the building of a sense of shared responsibility for heritage among indigenous people and local communities, by recognizing both universal and local values within management systems for World Heritage properties.

Achieving gender equality

23. Gender equality is one of UNESCO's two global priorities[15]. The UNESCO *Priority Gender Equality Action Plan* (2014-2021), moreover, requires Member States and the governing bodies of UNESCO regulatory instruments "to establish gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and gender-transformative policies and practices in the field of heritage". In addition, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is essential for achieving sustainable development, and is one of the post-2015 sustainable development goals[16]. Therefore, States Parties should:

i. Ensure respect for gender equality throughout the full cycle of World Heritage processes, particularly in the preparation and content of nomination dossiers;
ii. Ensure social and economic opportunities for both women and men in and around World Heritage properties;
iii. Ensure equal and respectful consultation, full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and representation of both women and men within activities for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties;
iv. When or where relevant, ensure that gender-rooted traditional practices within World Heritage properties, for example in relation to access or participation in management mechanisms, have received the full consent of all groups within the local communities through transparent consultation processes that fully respects gender equality.

Inclusive Economic Development

24. World Heritage properties, as cultural and natural heritage in general, offer great potential to alleviate poverty and enhance sustainable livelihoods of local communities, including those of marginalized populations[17]. Recognising that poverty eradication is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and the well-being of present and future generations, the Convention should therefore contribute to promoting sustainable forms of inclusive and equitable economic development, productive and decent employment and income-generating activities for all, while fully respecting the OUV of World Heritage properties[18].

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[15] "Priority Africa" is the second global priority of UNESCO

[16] An additional important reference specifically related to heritage is the Report on "Gender Equality, Heritage and Creativity" published by UNESCO in 2014 and accessible from: http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/gender-equality-heritage-creativity-culture-2014-en.pdf

[17] This has been clearly acknowledged by the UN GA Resolution (A/RES/68/223) on Culture and Sustainable Development (2013) as well as by the Hangzhou Declaration of May 2013, "Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies". See also footnote 10.

[18] Not every economic activity will be compatible with the conservation of OUV. Extractive industries related to oil, gas and mineral resources, for example, present considerable challenges. By its decision 37COM 7 (§8), the

Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods

25. The management and conservation of World Heritage properties should contribute to fostering inclusive local economic development and enhancing livelihoods, compatibly with the protection of their OUV. To this end, States Parties should, where appropriate, develop policies and mechanisms for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties that:

    i.   Enable enduring, inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic development, as well as full, productive and decent employment for local communities, including marginalised populations;
    ii.   Generate decent income and sustainable livelihoods for local communities, including marginalised populations;
    iii. Balance efficient market mechanisms and public policies, drawing on public-private partnership, economic incentives and intersectoral cooperation to ensure benefit sharing between all stakeholders in and around World Heritage properties.

Promoting economic investment and quality tourism

26. World Heritage properties are important travel destinations that, if managed properly, have great potential for inclusive local economic development, sustainability and strengthening social resilience. Sustainable forms of tourism development, including community-based initiatives, should be accompanied by inclusive and equitable economic investment to ensure benefit sharing in and around World Heritage properties[19]. For this reason, States Parties should, where appropriate:

    i.   Develop and promote inclusive and equitable economic investments in and around World Heritage properties that make use of local resources and skills, preserve local knowledge systems and infrastructures, and make local communities and individuals, including marginalised populations, the primary beneficiaries of these investments;
    ii.   Encourage locally-driven responsible and sustainable tourism management in and around World Heritage properties, to complement other sources of growth, so as to promote economic diversification between tourism and non-tourism activities. This will strengthen social and economic resilience in a way that also helps protect the OUV of properties;

World Heritage Committee urged all States Parties to the Convention and leading industry stakeholders "to respect the "No-go" commitment by not permitting extractive activities within World Heritage properties, and by making every effort to ensure that extractives companies located in their territory cause no damage to World Heritage properties, in line with Article 6 of the Convention".

[19] This is also in line with the *Global Code of Ethics for Tourism*, adopted by the UNWTO General Assembly in 1999 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001. Its Article 4 underlines that "tourism is a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and contributor to its enhancement". Article 5 explains that tourism should be a beneficial activity for local populations.

   iii.   Reinvest part of the revenues from tourism activities in the conservation and management of heritage resources in and around World Heritage properties;

   iv.   Adopt adequate visitor management planning that also encourages local tourism and implement socio-economic impact assessment prior to the approval of tourism projects associated with World Heritage properties;

   v.   Promote the development of sustainable economic activities related to craftsmanship associated with heritage conservation.

Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship

27. States Parties should recognise that inclusive economic development is a long-term commitment based on a holistic approach to World Heritage properties and their associated cultural and creative industries and intangible heritage. In view of this, States Parties should:

   i.   Develop educational and capacity-building programmes based on innovation and local entrepreneurship, aimed in particular at small/medium/micro scale levels, to promote sustainable economic benefits for local communities;

   ii.   Identify and promote opportunities for public and private investment in sustainable development projects that foster local cultural and creative industries and safeguard intangible heritage associated with World Heritage properties.

Fostering Peace and Security

28. Sustainable development and the conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage are undermined by war, civil conflict and all forms of violence. The World Heritage Convention is an integral part of UNESCO's established mandate to build bridges towards peace and security. It is therefore incumbent upon States Parties, in conformity also with provisions of the 1954 Hague *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* (The 1954 Hague Convention) and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols, for the States that have ratified them, as well as in accordance with the UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage (2003) and international customary law protecting cultural property in the event of armed conflict, to ensure that the implementation of the World Heritage Convention is used to promote the achievement and maintenance of peace and security between and within States Parties;

29. Recalling also the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001), States Parties should therefore acknowledge the reality of cultural diversity within and around many World Heritage properties, and promote a culturally pluralistic approach in strategies for their conservation and management.[20] States Parties should also

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[20] Additional policy texts adopted within UNESCO that are relevant to this issue include the *UNESCO Declaration of the Principles of International Cooperation* (1966) and the *UNESCO Declaration of Principles of Tolerance* (1995), accessible respectively from: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13147&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html and http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001518/151830eo.pdf .

recognise that peace and security, including freedom from conflict, discrimination and all forms of violence, require respect for human rights, effective systems of justice, inclusive political processes and appropriate systems of conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict recovery.

Ensuring conflict prevention

30. States Parties have a critically important role to play in ensuring that the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, including the establishment of the World Heritage List and management of inscribed properties, are used to prevent conflicts between and within States Parties and to promote respect for cultural diversity within and around World Heritage properties. To this end, States Parties should:

   i.   Support scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by local communities, aimed at demonstrating the contribution that the conservation and management of World Heritage properties and their wider setting make to conflict prevention and resolution, including, where relevant, by drawing on traditional ways of solving disputes that may exist within communities;
   ii.   Develop an inclusive approach to identifying, conserving and managing their own World Heritage properties that promote consensus and celebrate cultural diversity, as well as understanding of and respect for heritage belonging to others, particularly neighbouring States Parties;
   iii. Consider Tentative List additions and nominations for World Heritage listing that have potential to generate fruitful dialogue between States Parties and different cultural communities, for example through sites that "exhibit an important interchange of human values…" (Criterion ii);
   iv.   Adopt cross-culturally sensitive approaches to the interpretation of World Heritage properties that are of significance to various local communities and other stakeholders, particularly when nominating or managing heritage places associated with conflicts;
   v.   Consider, where appropriate, identifying, nominating and managing transboundary/transnational heritage properties and supporting mentoring arrangements in order to foster dialogue between neighboring States Parties or non-contiguous States Parties sharing a common heritage.

Protecting heritage during conflict

31. During armed conflict, States Parties must refrain from any use of World Heritage properties and their immediate surroundings for purposes which are likely to expose them to destruction or damage. They must also refrain from any act of hostility directed against such properties. To this end, States Parties should:

   i.   Ensure, as appropriate, the compliance of their armed forces with provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols or principles of international customary law protecting cultural property in the event of armed conflict when a State Party is engaged in armed conflict;

ii.   Ensure the management and conservation of World Heritage properties receive due consideration in military planning and training programmes.

Promoting conflict resolution

32.   The inherent potential of World Heritage properties and of their conservation to contribute favourably to conflict resolution and the re-establishment of peace and security should be acknowledged and harnessed. To this end, States Parties should, where appropriate:

i.   Ensure that consideration for heritage protection is included in conflict management and negotiations aimed at ending conflicts and civil unrest.

Contributing to post-conflict recovery

33.   During a conflict and in the post-conflict transition phase, World Heritage properties and their wider settings can make a significant contribution to recovery and socio-economic reconstruction. To this end, States Parties should, where appropriate:

i.   Help to ensure that the protection of World Heritage properties and their wider settings, and of cultural and natural heritage in general, is a priority in UN and other regional peace-keeping and post-conflict initiatives and interventions;

ii.   Adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to support the recovery of World Heritage properties and their integration into public programmes and policies, also through inclusive approaches that promote engagement of multiple stakeholders;

iii.   Ensure the full participation of the local communities concerned when it has been determined that the reconstruction of physical attributes of the property is justified under Paragraph 86 of the *Operational Guidelines*. This should, where relevant, draw on traditional knowledge;

iv.   Promote, when relevant, the reinstatement of oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship associated with the World Heritage properties, which may have been disrupted by the conflict;

v.   Ensure that relevant documentation is created before emergency situations arise, and that it is archived in safe storage locations.

Appendix – Glossary of key terms used in the policy (in alphabetical order)

"Build Back Better":

The "building back better" principle advocates for the restoration of communities and assets in a manner that makes them less vulnerable to disasters and strengthens their resilience, by preventing the creation of, and reducing existing, disaster risk.

Climate change:

A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (UNFCCC, Article 1).

Cross-cultural sensitivity:

'Cross Cultural Sensitivity' is a natural by-product of awareness and refers to an ability to read into situations, contexts and behaviours that are culturally rooted and be able to react to them appropriately. A suitable response necessitates that the actor no longer carries his/her own culturally determined interpretations of the situation or behaviour (i.e. good/bad, right/wrong) which can only be nurtured through both cross cultural knowledge and awareness.

(Source: Kwintessential. Online: http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cross-cultural-understanding.html (accessed 09 March 2015).

Disasters:

A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources (UNISDR, 2009).

Disaster Risk Reduction:

The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events (UNISDR, 2009).

Economic resources:

All types of tangible and intangible assets supplied to the production of economic outcomes. As cultural capital, World Heritage properties are considered as economic resources. Arts and crafts industries process intangible resources and skills in the production of consumer and investment goods.

Economic value:

Economic value is the cultural value expressed in economic terms. Typically economic values for World Heritage properties are broken down into use (market) values and non-use values. Non-use values are commonly estimated by revealed-preferences survey techniques, providing willingness-to-pay estimates for local residents or visitors.

Ecosystem services and benefits:

These are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth (UNEP).

Entrepreneurship:

Entrepreneurship is the capacity to start a new business in an organized structure. The emphasis is put on individual initiatives in terms of creativity and innovations. Arts and crafts techniques, intangible skills, local expertise are encouraged through micro-financing and basic training to foster local economic development in a sustainable perspective.

Gender:

"What it is: Social meaning given to being a woman or a man.

Social characteristics – not biological differences– used to define a woman or a man.

What it does: defines the boundaries of what women and men can and should be and do. Shapes and determines the behaviour, roles, expectations, and entitlements of women and men. Provides rules, norms, customs, and practices" (UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP).

Gender equality:

"Equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. It implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is a human rights principle, a precondition for sustainable, people-centred development, and it is a goal in and of itself." (GEAP)

Gender sensitive, gender responsive and gender transformative approaches:

"Gender Sensitive - acknowledging differences and inequalities between women and men as requiring attention

Gender Responsive - above + articulating policies and initiatives which address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men

Gender Transformative - Policies and initiatives that challenge existing and biased/discriminatory policies, practices, programmes and affect change for the betterment of life for all." (GEAP)

Human Rights:

"Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups." (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2014)

Human Rights-based approach:

For the UN system, the mainstreaming of human rights implies that:

"1. All programmes of development co-operation, policies and technical assistance should further the realisation of human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.
2. Human rights standards contained in, and principles derived from, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process.
3. Development cooperation contributes to the development of the capacities of 'duty-bearers' to meet their obligations and/or of 'rights-holders' to claim their rights" *(*Statement on a Common understanding of a human rights based approach to development cooperation, endorsed by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Programme Group).

Inclusive economic development:

"Sustainable development involves stable, equitable and inclusive economic growth, based on sustainable patterns of production and consumption" ("Realizing the Future We Want for All", page 29). Inclusive economic development favours a people-centred economy. It makes macroeconomic growth and equity compatible, as measured in terms of employment, income and welfare. It also relies on the local use of resources and fair competition in a global market.

Mitigation (of climate change):

A human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014).

Mitigation (of disaster):

The lessening of the potential adverse impacts of physical hazards (including those that are human-induced) through actions that reduce hazard, exposure, and vulnerability (IPCC, 2014).

Non-structural measures:

Any measure not involving physical construction that uses knowledge, practice or agreement to reduce risks and impacts, in particular through policies and laws, public awareness raising, training and education.

Peace:

The absence of war or conflict in a state, group of states, or the world; a state of mutual harmony between people or groups, especially in personal relations; freedom from civil commotion and violence of a community; public order and security.

Quality of Life:

Quality of life is the notion of human welfare (well-being) measured by social indicators (such as the possibility to vote, demonstrate, or participate in political parties) rather than by "quantitative" measures of income and production (Glossary of Environment Statistics, Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 67, United Nations, New York, 1997)

Resilience:

The word 'resilience' was first used in the physical sciences in relation to the capacity for a spring to bounce back. It has been adapted by other sectors in recent decades, and with a growing emphasis on continuity and adaptability in the face of change. The term has been used in psychology to describe the ability of groups and individuals to properly adapt to stress and adversity. In ecology, the term has been used to describe ecosystems that continue to function in more or less the same way despite adversity. It is increasingly used more generally to capture the ability of communities and individuals to bounce back, the capacity for recovery from failure whether created by a one-off setback or accumulative hardship over time.

Within the prevailing interest in climate change and disaster risk reduction, it is used in reference to "the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions" (UNISDR, 2009).

Security:

This concept is used in many different ways at both the level of the individual and the collective: for example, public order and security; safety or freedom from danger or risk; precautions taken to guard against crime, attack, sabotage or espionage; freedom from care, anxiety, or doubt; well-founded confidence; freedom from financial cares or from want.

Social Inclusion:

Social inclusion is about the processes and outcomes that improve the terms on which people participate in society. People may be excluded from a range of development processes, opportunities, and benefits due to their gender, ethnicity, migrant or refugee status, religion…

Social Inclusion recognizes and addresses these disadvantaged positions with the aim of fostering well-being and shared prosperity.

Structural measures:

Any physical construction to reduce or avoid possible impacts of hazards, or application of engineering techniques to achieve hazard-resistance and resilience in structures or systems.

Sustainable (also Sustainability):

This adjective is used in diverse ways in the heritage sector and beyond, and sometimes with insufficient attention to the actual intended meaning. Its more elaborate use draws from the environmental science field originally. It goes beyond the concept of viability and living within the limits to also embrace the idea of interconnections among economy, society, and environment and the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

Its more narrow use indicates the ability to last or continue for a long time, with the words 'maintainable' and 'tenable' constituting reliable synonyms for 'sustainable'. In this context 'sustainability' is often used in relation to the enduring nature of systems and processes.

Sustainable development:

'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (the Brundtland Commission). The question of how to translate this generic ideal into practice has been answered over the years in different ways. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa) introduced the notion of the three pillars of sustainable development, that is the environmental, the social and the economic, considered as "interdependent and mutually reinforcing". To ensure policy coherence with the Post-2015 UN sustainable development agenda, this draft policy has adopted the four dimensions of sustainable development from the conceptual framework adopted at the wider UN level in the

context of the discussions leading to the post-2015 development agenda, notably in the UN Task Team Report "Realizing the Future We Want for All".

Sustainable tourism:

"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities." (United Nations World Tourism Organisation)

Transnational property:

The Operational Guidelines (2013) equate 'transnational' and 'transboundary' but do not define the concept further. The term 'transboundary' applies when two or more states are contiguous and the property crosses national borders. 'Transnational' covers contiguity but also situations where non-contiguous States Parties are involved in the nomination.