



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

9 COM Decisions

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NINTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XI, 18-19 December 2014

ADOPTED DECISIONS

Decision 9.COM 1

The Committee,

1. Having considered document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/1,
2. Adopts the agenda of its Ninth Meeting as follows:

Agenda of the Ninth Meeting of the Committee

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Report of the Secretariat on its activities
5. Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including occupation
6. Studies on the evaluation of the criteria of Article 10, subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the Second Protocol
7. Creation of a distinctive emblem for cultural property under enhanced protection and establishment of the modalities of its use
8. Cultural property and its immediate surroundings
9. Development of synergies with other relevant UNESCO normative instruments and programmes and strengthening partnerships
10. Proposal to Strengthen Synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1972 World Heritage Convention
11. Methods to enhance awareness-raising efforts of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention
12. Fundraising strategy
13. Creation of a Special Account for human resources of the Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols

14. Modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee (election and composition of the Committee's Bureau)
15. Follow-up to the Audit of the Working Methods of Cultural Conventions and to the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector
16. National Reports
17. Miscellaneous
18. Closure of the Meeting

DECISION 9.COM 2

The Committee,

1. Having considered document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/2,
2. Takes note with appreciation of the Secretariat's report on its activities for following up decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Committee;
3. Welcomes the partnership activities carried out by Secretariat with all stakeholders concerning the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict;
4. Also takes note of the increase of tasks assigned to the Secretariat and therefore, invites States Parties to contribute in human and financial resources to support the work of the Secretariat;
5. Thanks the Kingdom of Belgium for providing additional funds in the form of appropriation letters as well as the Republic of Azerbaijan for its generous contribution of a Junior Professional Officer to the Secretariat.

DECISION 9.COM 3

The Committee,

1. Recalling Decision 8.COM 7 relating to the protection of cultural property in occupied territory, which it adopted at its Eighth Meeting,

2. Taking note of document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/3, requests the Secretariat to produce an editorial revision of the document;
3. Approves the operational and procedural arrangements, related to the despatch of technical missions on the ground contained in document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/3, which include, *inter alia*, for the purpose of ensuring the security of the mission, the consent of all concerned parties to an armed conflict as a *sine qua non* condition;
4. Reaffirms the importance of the mandate assigned to it under Article 27(1)(c) of the Second Protocol, particularly in the context of monitoring the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including occupation;
5. Encourages Parties to an armed conflict as well as other Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol to draw their attention to the state of cultural property affected by an armed conflict including occupation, and to implement their obligations under the 1999 Second Protocol in good faith;
6. Also encourages the Chairperson, in consultation with members of the Committee, to make public statements on behalf of the Committee as well as together with UNESCO and/or other statutory bodies established by Cultural Conventions and/or the International Committee of the Blue Shield on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including occupation;
7. Invites the Chairperson, in collaboration with the Bureau, to exercise her function by, as appropriate, making use of the knowledge and experience of the previous Chairperson of the Committee;
8. Further encourages the Chairperson to assume her responsibilities under the relevant provisions of the Second Protocol with the view to exerting conciliation efforts among concerned Parties to an armed conflict including occupation in order to strengthen monitoring of cultural property on the ground;
9. Calls on the International Committee of the Blue Shield to provide a report on the situations where cultural property is at risk in the context of an armed conflict

including occupation, to be examined during the Tenth Meeting of the Committee, in order to develop proposals for action;

10. Invites the National Committees of the Blue Shield, National Advisory Committees foreseen by Resolution II of the 1954 Hague Conference, UNESCO National Commissions and national commissions for the implementation of international humanitarian law to support States Parties in implementing the 1954 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol, particularly at the level of completing the inventory referred to in the aforementioned Convention, as appropriate.

DECISION 9.COM 4

The Committee,

1. Recalling Decision 8.COM 12 concerning the creation of a specific distinctive emblem to mark cultural property under enhanced protection, which it adopted at its Eighth Meeting,
2. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/4/REV2,
3. Considers the Proposal No. 3 in Annex I to document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/4/REV2 as the best proposal for marking cultural property under enhanced protection;
4. Recommends that the Meeting of the Parties endorses proposals for the modification of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol contained in Annex 2 to document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/4/REV2, with necessary linguistic adjustments by the Secretariat to ensure consistency with the current Guidelines;
5. Recommends that the Meeting of the Parties examines proposal No. 3 in Annex 1 to document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/4/REV2, including its graphic charter, and the modalities for its use at its Sixth Meeting with a view, if appropriate, to approving them and amending the Guidelines accordingly.

DECISION 9.COM 5

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/5 concerning the relevant principles for the determination of the immediate surroundings of cultural property according to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol,
2. Recommends to the Meeting of the Parties to consider at its Sixth Meeting in 2015 the proposals of amendments to the Guidelines as contained in Annex 2 in order to endorse them, as appropriate, and to amend those Guidelines accordingly.

DECISION 9.COM 6

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT/14/9.COM/CONF.203/6,
2. Recalling its Decision 8.COM 2,
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat and the ICOMOS for their work;
4. Thanks the Kingdom of Belgium for its generous financial contribution for the execution of the studies;
5. Requests the Secretariat to further continue its work, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Blue Shield, in consultation with the Parties, on developing methodologies to analyse the three criteria of Article 10 of the 1999 Second Protocol and to report on the results of its evaluation prior to the Tenth Meeting of the Committee;
6. Invites the Secretariat, in this context, to present, as appropriate, draft amendments to the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol for consideration by the members of the Committee at its Tenth Meeting.

DECISION 9.COM 7

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/7,
2. Welcomes further development of synergies with other UNESCO's normative instruments in the field of culture, programmes and strengthening partnerships;
3. Notes the establishment of the International Discussion Platform on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its work;
4. Invites the Secretariat to continue the development of synergies with other UNESCO normative instruments and programmes as well as other relevant International Humanitarian Law instruments and strengthening partnerships for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and to inform the Committee at its Tenth Meeting of progress achieved;
5. Invites the Director-General to organise at least once a year consultation meetings of the Chairpersons of the Statutory Bodies established by the Culture Conventions, having as a subject *inter alia* developing synergies among those Conventions and where relevant report back to the different Statutory Bodies.

DECISION 9.COM 8

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/8,
2. Recalling Decisions 7.COM 4 and 8. COM 10,
3. Expresses its gratitude to The Kingdom of the Netherlands and New Zealand for their generous contributions to the Fund;
4. Strongly encourages other Parties to contribute to the Fund to ensure its long-term viability;
5. Invites the Parties to submit requests for international or other assistance from the Fund;

6. Requests the Secretariat to present to the Committee at its Tenth Meeting an update on the fundraising strategy for the Fund.

DECISION 9.COM 9

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/9,
2. Considering that the lack of human and financial resources constitutes an obstacle to the implementation of activities by the Secretariat,
3. Welcomes the establishment of a Special Account specifically earmarked for the enhancement of the human resources of the Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols;
4. Encourages States Parties to henceforth make voluntary contributions in order to ensure the efficiency of the Secretariat's work;
5. Requests the Secretariat to prepare a working document proposing the establishment of a new Special Account to enhance its human resources in anticipation of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to take place in 2015.

DECISION 9.COM 10

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/10,
2. Decides, at present, to maintain the currently applicable Rules of Procedure.

DECISION 9.COM 11

The Committee,

1. Having considered document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/11 and its Annex,
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Bureau and the Secretariat for its work;

3. Takes note of the present document;
4. Requests the Secretariat to provide updated information about the key results at the Committee's Tenth Meeting on the follow-up of the implementation of recommendations contained in the IOS audit.

DECISION 9.COM 12

The Committee,

1. Having examined the document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/12,
2. Requests the Secretariat to prepare an electronic form for the submission of national reports in order to collect thematic information on the implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol by the Parties, and, particularly, on the monitoring of cultural property under enhanced protection;
3. Invites the Parties to inform the Secretariat of their suggestions to improve the summary document, particularly concerning the monitoring of cultural property under enhanced protection;
4. Requests the Secretariat to report to the Committee at its Tenth Meeting.

DECISION 9.COM 13

The Committee,

1. Recalling its Decisions 7.COM 3 and 7.COM 6, and Decisions 37 COM 12.II and 38 COM 5A adopted by the World Heritage Committee,
2. Having examined the document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/13 and thanking Belgium for preparing it,
3. Appreciating the proposals set out in the Annex to the aforementioned document;
4. Encourages all the States Parties to the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol to lend support in the appropriate circles to the Committee's proposed amendments;

5. Requests its Chairperson and the Committee's Bureau to take the necessary steps to make the World Heritage Committee aware of the importance of lending support to these proposed amendments;
6. Also requests the Director-General to forward all the relevant documents for consideration by the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee;
7. Finally requests the Director-General to propose to the World Heritage Committee to consider, within the framework of the preparation of the third periodic reporting cycle on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the synergies to develop between sections I and II and the national reports required by the Hague Convention and the Second Protocol.

DECISION 9.COM 14

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/14,
2. Reaffirming the relevance and importance of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict,
3. Emphasizing the need to strengthen appreciation and respect for cultural property both in times of peace and in times of armed conflict,
4. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Director-General of UNESCO in promoting the ratification of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954, its dissemination and raising-awareness of its importance;
5. Further welcomes the measures taken by States Parties to the Second Protocol in this regard, and invites them to enhance their awareness-raising efforts of the Protocol, particularly at the national level, including by:
 - a) designing, as appropriate, specific methods and programmes geared to reach all segments in society,

- b) increasing the use of all types of media (print, audio, visual), as well as electronic social media and other Internet outlets, in their awareness-raising efforts, with a view to maximizing the intended results,
 - c) introducing, as appropriate, the principles and objectives stipulated in the Second Protocol in educational systems and programmes at all levels,
 - d) forging partnerships with UNESCO, its National Commissions, civil society, including NGOs and other partners listed in Article 27(3) of the Second Protocol, for promotional and awareness-raising purposes,
 - e) sharing of information and best practices regarding the promotion of the Second Protocol;
6. Requests the Secretariat, within available extra-budgetary resources, to provide technical assistance to States Parties, at their request, for the implementation of the measures stipulated in the present Decision.

STATEMENT

The Committee has decided to issue the following statement:

1. Strongly urges the States Parties to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 to submit their requests to the Committee for the granting of enhanced protection to cultural property, and first and foremost, cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, and to provide to the Committee tentative lists of cultural property for which the Parties intend to request the granting of enhanced protection;
2. Urges the States and the international community to implement the necessary means to prevent new tensions resulting in threats to cultural property and to explicitly include the issue of protection of cultural property in the mandates of armed forces;

3. Condemns the repeated deliberate attacks against cultural property throughout the world, in particular in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq;
4. Calls upon the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq to ratify the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention at the earliest opportunity and submit their requests to the Committee for granting enhanced protection to cultural property, on an emergency basis.