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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**PREPARATORY MEETING**

**FOR SETTING UP AN INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
(ICC) FOR HAITIAN CULTURE**

*Tuesday, 16 February 2010, UNESCO Headquarters (Paris), Room XI*

## FINAL REPORT

### I. Introduction

1. A preparatory meeting for setting up an international coordinating committee (ICC) for Haitian culture ('the meeting') was held in Paris on 16 February 2010. The meeting was attended by an important delegation from Haiti comprising: Ms Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue, Minister of Culture and Communication; Ms Magali Comeau Denis, Special Adviser to the Minister and former Minister of Culture and Communication; Mr Daniel Elie, Director of the Institute for the Protection of the National Heritage (ISPAN) and former Minister of Culture and Communication; Mr Wilhems Edouard, Director of Presses Nationales d'Haïti; Mr Pierre Buteau, sociologist, historian and former Minister of Education; Ms Marie-Denis Jean, Deputy Permanent Delegate and Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Delegation of Haiti to UNESCO, and Mr Kerby Lacarriere, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Delegation of Haiti to UNESCO.

2. In addition, some 150 other participants were present at the meeting, including representatives of delegations from UNESCO Member States and international technical organizations such as ICCROM, ICOM, ICOMOS, Interpol, ICA, IFLA, the Blue Shield and the ICTM. Heritage institutes and associations were represented by the Getty Conservation Institute, the Institut national du Patrimoine (France), the Cultural Heritage Institute of Université Laval (Canada), CRAterre-ENSAG (France) and the School of African Heritage (Benin). Museums were represented by the Musée du Quai Branly (France), the Smithsonian Institution (USA), the Musée d'ethnographie de Genève (Switzerland) and the Israel Museum (Jerusalem). Public technical institutions were represented by the Central Office for Prevention of Trafficking of Cultural Goods (France), the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie, the Ministry of Culture (France) and the Interdepartmental Task Force on Reconstruction of Haiti (France). The attendance list is available from the Secretariat on request.

3. The purpose of the meeting was, firstly, to ascertain from the Haitian authorities what they needed and expected from UNESCO in order to protect and safeguard Haitian culture in all its aspects. Secondly, procedures were to be defined to allow UNESCO and its partners to prepare and set in motion a comprehensive programme for Haitian culture drawing on the substantial capacities of the country's cultural community, which was already mobilized, and calling on world-renowned experts. For this purpose the first part of the meeting was devoted to taking stock of the damage and of needs, while in the second half an integrated strategy for cultural cooperation in the short and medium term was considered. Furthermore, in order to coordinate the international reconstruction effort in Haiti in the field of culture and ensure that it was coherent, UNESCO proposed that the rehabilitation programme should be structured by an international coordinating committee (ICC) for Haitian culture.

### II. Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting was opened by the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, who thanked the Haitian authorities for having travelled outside Haiti for the first time since the earthquake and reminded them how anxious UNESCO was to provide its assistance "in the fields of this culture which constitutes the power and soul of the Haitian people". She also thanked the experts, representing governmental and non-governmental institutions, museums and cultural associations, who had also responded to the invitation. Ms Bokova then recalled the action taken by the Organization from the outset, including setting up a crisis cell, sending field missions, launching education system projects, mobilizing the international community to avert the risk of looting,

calling on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to protect the country's emblematic sites and museums and initiating the campaign for a temporary international ban on trade in Haitian works of art. The Director-General also referred to UNESCO's various partnerships with other organizations such as ICOMOS and ICCROM that had already borne fruit in Haiti and stressed just how necessary it was to ensure consistent action in order to encourage everyone wanting to provide assistance to the Haitian people.

5. After requesting the meeting to observe a minute's silence for the many victims of the 12 January earthquake, Ms Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue, Minister of Culture and Communication of the Republic of Haiti, pointed out that over and above the humanitarian disaster (230,000 dead and half a million displaced persons), Haitian culture had also been seriously affected. Major historical centres such as Port-au-Prince, Jacmel and Léogane were in ruins. Potent symbols of architecture and the arts had been destroyed, over 100 years of architecture had been lost, and the cradle of Haitian culture had been laid waste. Archival institutions, theatres, libraries and all the key tools for conveying culture were currently labouring under considerable difficulties. The whole production and management apparatus of the Haitian cultural sector was at present malfunctioning. It therefore had to be stressed how much the Haitian people needed solidarity from the international community and how essential UNESCO's support was.

### **III. First session: Taking stock after the earthquake**

6. Discussion initially focused on assessing earthquake damage not only to buildings but also to the intangible heritage and cultural industries, before moving on to a more general discussion.

#### **III.1. Statement by the representative of Haiti (ISPAN)**

7. Mr Daniel Elie, Director of the Institute for the Protection of the National Heritage (ISPAN), outlined the current situation in Haiti with specific reference to the built heritage. Port-au-Prince had been very badly affected, for, despite the fact that no detailed inventories had yet been made of damage to historic buildings, it was already certain that 75 to 85% of the historical heritage had been severely damaged. Partial lists of affected buildings (ministries, libraries, churches, ancient fortifications, etc.) were being compiled. The situation in Jacmel and Léogane was also explained. The current danger in those earthquake-damaged cities was that damaged buildings might be demolished by unauthorized bulldozing. Mr Elie ended his statement by recalling the various activities that ISPAN had been pursuing before the earthquake and ISPAN's collaboration with the World Heritage Centre.

#### **III.2. Statements by UNESCO's partner institutions**

8. Mr Araoz, President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), began by recalling ICOMOS missions and particularly its work to protect the tangible heritage. When the earthquake struck Haiti, ICOMOS had responded immediately and had pointed out the need to coordinate the assistance provided to the Haitian authorities. An expert committee had been established to mobilize all ICOMOS resources. In early February, missions had been sent to work in the field in collaboration with ISPAN, UNESCO and the World Monuments Fund (WMF). ICOMOS had received numerous offers of assistance, especially from universities and heritage institutes. It had an up-to-date database with over 200 volunteers.

9. In his statement, Mr Anfruns, Director General of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), highlighted work on location, international activity and coordination. With regard to work on location, a "Heritage in Danger" crisis unit had been set up to make a partial inventory of sites in danger (approximately 10 museums and approximately 30 cultural institutions) and draw up a preliminary list of emergency measures. As for international activity, combating illicit trafficking in cultural property was a priority for ICOM, which welcomed UNESCO's call for a temporary ban on trade in works of art. In addition, ICOM would soon be publishing a Red List of Haitian cultural objects at risk and creating a web page for each institution affected, with its GIS location, reconstruction projects, etc. Lastly, Mr Anfruns stressed that coordination between field workers on the spot was of paramount importance and that the Blue Shield had done a great deal of work in this respect.

10. For Mr Sanz, Chair of the French Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the priority was to identify players and needs for Haiti. IFLA had recently drawn up an action programme which it suggested that its members should take as a guide for their own work. This action programme was divided into three stages. First came the emergency stage, consisting of measures such as making libraries secure, saving the collections that could still be saved, identifying storage areas, etc. The second, medium-term, stage (approximately two months) included making inventories, setting up mobile emergency treatment units, training local staff in restoration, identifying specialist restoration workshops abroad where necessary and beginning to rebuild the library network. Finally, the third and last stage (from two to ten years) entailed plans to build earthquake-resistant buildings and to create an information sciences college to train Haitian librarians and the constitution of physical and electronic collections. In addition to the action programme, IFLA was working with a number of bodies, committees and associations in France (particularly ADIFLOR and Libraries without Borders) to run projects such as provision of sheeting for temporary protection and donation of books to Haitian libraries.

11. In turn, Mr Bouchenaki, Director-General of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), first drew attention to ICCROM's scope for action in this type of disaster, the organization's strength being its network and experience. While, in terms of methodology, ICCROM encouraged preventive conservation, emergency measures had also been planned, such as publication of a handbook and creation of a website bringing together all available data, since information-gathering was seen as the priority. However, Mr Bouchenaki warned those involved in reconstruction of the risk inherent in measures designed to cope with emergencies but which unfortunately risked causing damage in the long term. For this reason, and echoing his predecessors on the platform, the Director-General of ICCROM stressed the vital need for coordination between the Haitian authorities and the international cooperation effort. Mr Bouchenaki then outlined the priority measures taken by ICCROM and reiterated that his organization was ready to assist the Haitian people within the framework of concerted action by the international organizations led by the Haitian authorities and UNESCO.

### III.3. Statement by a director of the Smithsonian Institution

12. Having heard the international organizations' points of view, the representative from the Smithsonian Institution, Mr Kurin (Under Secretary for History, Art and Culture), put forward some proposals for action drawn up by museums, which also had an important part to play in safeguarding Haitian culture. More specifically, the Smithsonian Institution had already worked with Haitian artists in the past (cooperation with a crafts committee and the Nader Art Gallery). At present, the Institution was trying to identify and compile a list of custodians of the Haitian oral tradition who were still

alive, since continuity of Haiti's intangible heritage was of paramount importance for the survival and reconstruction of Haiti. Living heritage should not just be catalogued but should also have the resources to perpetuate its living traditions. Mr Kurin laid special emphasis on the need to provide money, materials and markets for Haitian artists. In that respect, the network of 160 institutions affiliated to the Smithsonian Institution could be very useful. Mr Kurin also wished to see storytelling artists, singers, etc., performing across the globe to publicize Haiti's identity and as a source of recognition and revenue. Finally, this Smithsonian Institution director pointed out that hundreds of experts and curators were willing to offer their assistance but that it would be possible only if the Haitian authorities announced their priorities. In addition, Mr Kurin called for the Haitian Government to comment on whether or not state aid would be available for safeguarding private collections.

#### III.4. Report from the UNESCO Culture Sector mission to Port-au-Prince (1-7 February 2010)

13. UNESCO's special representative for the Culture Sector, Mr Fernando Brugman, had been sent to Port-au-Prince to make a preliminary survey of the condition of culture in Haiti. Photographs were shown, illustrating not only the scale of the disaster but also, above all, how the local population was fighting to save whatever could still be saved. Mr Brugman pointed out that, while emergency measures were necessary, care should be taken that foreign action did not have an adverse impact on Haitian culture in the long term. To avoid that danger, it was essential to mobilize Haitian intellectuals and cultural operators.

#### III.5. General discussion

14. Following the presentations by the official speakers, some participants, including donors, wished to speak on specific points. Thus the Spanish representative pointed out that Spain's Agency for International Cooperation and Development was heavily involved and wished to step up its contribution, that her delegation would support UNESCO's draft resolution at the United Nations Security Council on banning trade in cultural artefacts, and that funds would be available for projects to restore built heritage (in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre). The representative of the European Commission, for his part, stated that funds (some €600 million) were currently being allocated for emergency humanitarian aid. However, recognizing that there had to be dialogue on reconstruction, he accepted that culture must be taken into account in such efforts. The representative of Japan drew attention to the fact that funds (\$70 million) and medical teams had been sent to Haiti.

15. The representative of the Dominican Republic spoke next. She pointed out the importance of UNESCO's role in establishing the roadmap for cultural and educational reconstruction and defining medium- and long-term strategies. She reminded the audience of how important it was to respect the sovereignty of the Haitian State. The representative of the United States of America for her part wished to have further information on UNESCO's emergency measures against looting, since there did not seem to be any concrete signs of an international presence to secure sites and prevent cultural property from being taken out of Haiti illegally. In reply, Ms Comeau Denis, Special Adviser to the Minister of Culture and Communication of Haiti, stated that immediately after the earthquake measures had been taken by the Haitian authorities and the Haitians themselves to organize mobile security patrols for the most important sites. Subsequently, a statement had been released to private collectors in order to prevent the loss of artefacts, and special surveillance introduced at the borders. UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Culture, Ms Françoise Rivière, informed the meeting that immediately after the earthquake she had personally appealed to

MINUSTAH to secure certain collections and that further requests to that effect had been made by the Director-General and then the Director of the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince on 3 February. Ms Rivière also emphasized the extensive work and the initiatives undertaken by the Haitians themselves to rescue from the rubble those cultural objects that could still be saved. It was now a matter of urgency to supply those people with funds and materials to continue that work and secure the cultural objects in containers or other clearly identified storage areas before undertaking the most comprehensive inventory possible.

16. The representative of the International Council on Archives (ICA) for her part wanted primarily to see support for work to recover the records of institutions and government departments from the rubble in order to enable the State to resume its work and duties. Preference should here be given to the Blue Shield approach. Next, the Interpol representative also reported on his organization's work on behalf of Haiti's cultural heritage, including the appeal to Member States concerning the potential risk of looting of cultural property and the need for heightened vigilance in that field. Interpol had also created a focal point which was monitoring all issues relating to Haiti as a matter of priority. However, it should be noted that, for the time being, little information was available and it was very difficult to gather facts about looting and thefts. The director of the Cultural Heritage Institute of Université Laval (Canada) pointed out that graduates with the "Heritage and History" master's degree were willing to go to Haiti if necessary and that a pilot project had been carried out in Jacmel before the earthquake (a start had been made on an inventory as part of this programme). Finally, the representative of the Netherlands spoke on behalf of the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development to tell the meeting that an inventory had been prepared listing twelve priority fields of cooperation between the Fund and other institutions.

#### **IV. Second session: Towards an integrated strategy for cultural cooperation in the medium and long term**

##### **IV.1 General discussion**

17. The Assistant Director-General for Culture noted that UNESCO's proposal to coordinate overall efforts as part of an integrated strategy for medium- and long-term cultural cooperation in Haiti seemed to have been accepted, in particular by the Haitian authorities and the international community. She wanted duplication of work to be avoided at all costs and each country's budget contribution to be specifically earmarked. Regarding the ICC, Ms Rivière hoped that it would meet as soon as possible, perhaps in June 2010, in order to review what had already been done, the most important tasks ahead and international action in the future. Lastly, the Assistant Director-General wished to point out that the Ministry of Culture in Haiti had itself suffered serious human and material losses. On that subject, the representative of the interdepartmental delegation of France and the Council of Europe stressed the real need for IT equipment and announced that the Council of Europe would launch a corresponding appeal to its 47 Member States after the meeting.

18. The Director-General of ICCROM suggested that the meeting's participants should recommend provisional statutory special-protection measures for cultural heritage. He stressed that it would be helpful for the Haitian authorities to set up a task force in coordination with the ICC. Lastly, he stated that a call for volunteers was to be made in Haiti and that in return those volunteers would receive training in documentation and removal exercises. In that connection, Ms Victoire O. L. Adegbidi, representing the School of African Heritage, proposed that its students should go to work in Haiti in order to gain professional experience and that, depending on available funds, they would start in August or September 2010.

19. The Blue Shield representative, Mr Christophe Jacobs, recalled that his organization had been working in the field since 13 January and that it had been able to act as a coordinating body, being continuously informed of the situation in the country. Five hundred people had volunteered to provide additional assistance, which would not duplicate the work already completed or in progress. However, the Director of UNESCO's Division of Cultural Objects and Intangible Heritage drew the audience's attention to the criteria for the partnership between Haiti and the international community as well as the need for emergency legislation, the establishment of a special Haitian task force, the involvement of the Haitian people, and the logistic challenges of all the work.

20. The Special Adviser to the Minister of Culture and Communication was concerned that foreign intervention could further weaken the Haitian Government and asked for the strengthening of institutional bodies to be a priority of reconstruction work. While thanking the Blue Shield for its assistance on behalf of her country, she thought that it would have been better for the authorities to have been involved in the organization's plans from the outset.

21. The representative of Brazil advised the Haitian Government to raise funds under all the conventions to which the country was party. In that connection, Ms Rivière noted that Haiti had ratified the 1970, 1972, 2003 and 2005 Conventions and that the country should claim the emergency assistance available. She also noted that the 2005 Convention offered a fund but it would not be operational before December 2010.

22. A consultant at the meeting, Ms Florence Alexis, did not want the question of public-private partnerships to be neglected, given public sector activity in Haiti and the public sector's past work on behalf of the island's heritage. Ms Alexis also emphasized the possibility of involving the Haitian community abroad, a network with considerable resources and skills. Ms Alexis further suggested that, considering the burden currently weighing on the State, dialogue should focus on civil society instead. The Special Adviser to the Minister, while recognizing the importance of public-private partnerships and dialogue with civil society, stressed the fact that, as far as the State was concerned, it was not a matter of offloading its responsibilities to civil society but, on the contrary, a matter of doing everything possible to ensure that the State had the resources to shoulder its responsibilities. She added that the earthquake had forced the country to think about its systemic problems.

23. The delegate of Peru described the contribution made by his country, which had sent its nationals to Haiti to lend it assistance immediately after the disaster and had attended a meeting in Quito in early February for the purpose of coordinating South American aid. The Peruvian delegation requested the Director-General to mobilize other sectors of UNESCO such as the Social and Human Sciences Sector, which had published an exemplary document online emphasizing the Haitian authorities' wish to see Haitians themselves take the initiative.

24. Ms Comeau Denis stressed the importance of ensuring that work on the ground did not benefit only those familiar with the machinery of international cooperation or who already had business relations with foreign governments or international organizations. She stated that young people had been particularly affected and that the students who had survived might receive training in inventories and thus actually earn an income.

## IV.II Priority measures in the short and medium term

### IV.II.1. *Built heritage and urban areas*

25. Mr Thierry Joffrey, Chair of CRAterre-ENSAG, pointed out that reconstruction efforts should be adapted to the national and cultural context and emphasized that wooden houses had been spared by the earthquake. Ms Rivière thought it advisable to secure the main buildings first and then to reconstruct sites and monuments on the basis of the materials available. An innovative approach was needed here to rule out the risk of further destruction of buildings if a further disaster were to occur.

26. The Special Adviser to the Minister of Culture and Communication underlined the fact that all reconstruction measures should be taken with sustainable development in mind. Ms Comeau Denis also mentioned that builders themselves should be made aware of and trained in earthquake-proof construction.

27. Mr André Delpuech, from the Musée du Quai Branly, drew the audience's attention to the fact that problems relating to the archaeological heritage had already existed at the time of the Tainos. While confirming that some destruction was unfortunately inevitable, he pointed out that many colleagues were willing to offer assistance to safeguard sites. He went on to explain that Haiti had indeed completed several inventories of archaeological sites but that few other inventories existed.

28. Mr Daniel Elie, Director of ISPAN, said that the government's action in Jacmel would be the first of its kind to involve private holding companies. The law stated that monuments belonging to citizens could be nationalized if their owners were compensated. Mr Elie also mentioned that such an action would have to be approached with extreme caution and that it was not yet clear how the tension between the public and private sectors was to be managed. Mr Wilhems Edouard, Director of Presses Nationales d'Haïti, commented on the fact that the existing legal framework could be used if the scope of the 1995 decree – protecting buildings of major importance – were broadened. That alone would make it possible to implement such measures, with reference also to Article 15 of the Constitution of Haiti. Ms Comeau Denis explained that there was a legal lacuna here despite Haiti's efforts to reform its civil and criminal law.

29. Mr Bouchenaki from ICCROM suggested that shelters should be built for the homeless in the vernacular style.

30. Ms Diss, from Google, emphasized that her company could help to draw up maps and gather information using GIS technology and that it had started on the process one week after the disaster. She said that Google Map Maker could be used to describe what was happening in the smallest villages and that My Maps was enabling organizations and individuals to create communities. She also mentioned that Street View could be used for cultural heritage sites and that the service had already been made available to some NGOs.

### IV.II.2 *Museums and cultural institutions*

31. Ms Rivière asked for emergency measures to secure the buildings of damaged museums in order that the works of art that they housed might be moved to safety in Haiti or abroad. In her opinion, it was essential to use museums in the rest of the country or abroad to store the cultural objects, but she also noted that the legal question of the relationship between the public and private sectors must first be



addressed and that, in this respect, Haiti perhaps needed to define or clarify its position concerning the way in which private collections were to be managed. She stressed that efforts to prevent illicit trafficking in works of art should be stepped up, since it was common knowledge that such trade tended to increase in a crisis such as this. She also suggested that there should be cooperation with Interpol and the population should be made aware of, or even trained in, the trade in antiquities and works of art, with emphasis on verification of origin.

32. Colonel Giovanni Nistri, representing the Italian police, stated that the latter had forwarded UNESCO's official letter to all divisions immediately upon receiving it. He told the audience that the Italian police would submit their proposals at an Interpol meeting early the following week. He emphasized that it was essential to draw up an inventory in order to combat illicit trafficking, even if it was a laborious task. He mentioned that that should be done before the artefacts were actually moved to safety and that the Italian police could supply the extremely simple form that they had used for Iraq. Finally, he added that there should be a special focus on e-commerce sites and contacts with customs agencies.

33. The Blue Shield representative mentioned that his organization had sent updates to websites and approved the establishment of an emergency treatment unit for damaged cultural materials, which would be set up on a site near the airport and serve as a depot for storing and protecting works of art and receiving and directing volunteers.

34. The United States delegate spoke on behalf of the representative of the Smithsonian Institution to say that that institution was willing to cooperate with Haiti's Ministry of Culture and Communication and ICCROM for the restoration of cultural property and that it wished to help train Haitians for that purpose. With the permission of the Haitian Government, the Smithsonian would also like to take part in large-scale restoration work – including, among other things, setting up a large storage tent – and was also very interested in participating in the ICC.

#### *IV.II.3 Intangible heritage and cultural industries*

35. Mr Laurier-Turgeon, from the Université Laval in Quebec, stressed the exceptional wealth of Haitian intangible heritage and the major role of the carnivals, especially the Jacmel carnival, which also constituted an important market for crafts and a not inconsiderable source of cultural tourism. The event underlined the fast return on investment that might accrue from paying attention to intangible heritage, as well as the therapeutic role that culture could play in this traumatic period for the Haitian people. Mr Pierre Buteau, former Haitian Minister of Education, for his part emphasized the importance that should be attached to those individuals who were custodians of Haitian culture and stressed that an inventory of the intangible heritage should also be drawn up.

36. As for the institutions invited, ICCROM considered that artists should also be included in reconstruction efforts and supported by the international community to that end. The Smithsonian stated that it was interested in working with the Université Laval and the Haitian Government to conduct an inventory of Haiti's cultural resources and help artists and craft workers to develop commercial outlets for their work.

37. Ms Comeau Denis pointed out that the Jacmel carnival had brought together all sorts of craft workers, who had received municipal support for their products. That support was no longer forthcoming, and the craft workshops had been totally destroyed. Ms Comeau Denis suggested that an emergency fund be set up for those craft workers and artists. The delegate of Brazil similarly considered that the Haitian

authorities should be supported through the creation of such a fund; although it was impossible to assist each individual craft worker, it ought to be possible to grant collective aid. The Google representative told the audience that a tool for searching individuals had already been set up and suggested that the artists might promote Google's various efforts.

38. Lastly, an ICCROM representative said that consideration should also be given to sound, moving images and the performing arts, which should also be the subject of a collection. Ms Rivière reiterated that funds were available under the 2003 and 2005 Conventions and that the 2003 Convention in particular could release funds relatively quickly, since the delivery mechanisms were fully operational.

#### *IV.II.4 Archives, libraries and manuscripts*

39. The Google representative here proposed that – although it was a politically sensitive subject – the written heritage could be digitized. IFLA supported the proposal but asked for the Haitians to set priorities through clear guidelines. The IFLA representative also said that a consensus ought to be reached without delay in order to secure museums and buildings housing records and that, in the longer term, Haiti's institutions themselves should be strengthened. In the medium term, he suggested that library services should be provided to the million and a half refugees through mobile libraries.

40. Lastly, Mr Pierre Buteau said that the Committee of UNESCO's Memory of the World programme ought to play a role in that respect.

### **V. Conclusions and closing of the meeting**

41. Before closing the session, Ms Riviere welcomed the fact that the preparatory meeting had been attended by the Haitian delegation and some 150 people from 50 delegations, 11 IGOs and NGOs and 20 national institutions. She explained that the report would first be sent to the Haitian authorities for approval and then distributed to the participants.

42. The Assistant Director-General for Culture summed up the key points of the meeting, recalling that the Haitian authorities were to prepare a roadmap with urgent measures in order of priority, on the basis of which the ICC would then draw up its own priorities. The creation of the ICC was to be approved by UNESCO's Executive Board, which would be meeting from 30 March to 15 April 2010. Accordingly, the ICC could meet only after that date, with the task of coordinating the international community's work in the light of the priorities set by the Haitians themselves, avoiding duplication and harnessing political willpower and financial support to those priorities. Consequently, they could only be short- and medium-term priorities. But there were already a number of emergency measures that had to be taken, which Ms Rivière endeavoured to summarize: (1) Support for the Ministry of Culture; (2) Securing of major cultural sites in Port-au-Prince and other cities damaged by the earthquake (mainly Jacmel and Léogane); if MINUSTAH did not respond to repeated appeals, the Haitian authorities would be asked to instruct volunteers (USA? Blue Shield?) to do that; (3) Collecting and housing of cultural objects, archives, books, etc., and strengthening of structures, provision of containers and payment of labour; (4) Drafting of emergency legal measures to protect Haitian property against unauthorized demolition; (5) Preparation of "emergency inventories" by the Haitians themselves (sites to be secured, archives and documents to be listed, intangible traditions to be inventoried); (6) Establishment of a fund (allocation mechanisms, approaches to international community) to finance Haitian artists and craft workers who had lost their assets in the earthquake.

43. Ms Comeau-Denis had the final word, emphasizing that the preparatory meeting had established the framework for various measures, to which the Haitian authorities would add further in various fields that had not been discussed owing to time constraints. She thanked the participants warmly and offered her condolences to countries which had lost their nationals in the disaster. She concluded by stressing the sense of isolation felt by the Minister and her team and the difficulty of conveying the importance of culture in such circumstances.

## ANNEX

### RECOMMENDATIONS

At UNESCO's invitation, a Haitian delegation led by the Minister of Culture and Communication, Ms Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue, attended an informal meeting on 16 February 2010 to discuss both emergency and medium-term measures needed to assist in safeguarding Haitian culture after the earthquake of 12 January 2010.

All reconstruction work must be founded on Haitian culture as the cement binding society. Culture, in all its aspects, will enable the Haitian people to find their bearings again and contemplate their future. Building on the creativity of the Haitian people, conveyed through their cinema, literature, music, arts, crafts and all the various expressions of Haiti's cultural values, international action must provide firm and vigorous support for both the creation and reconstruction of structures for training in, passing on, producing and disseminating expressions of Haitian culture. The importance of the intangible heritage must be emphasized here, since it constitutes an important and vivid point of reference given the scale of material destruction, and the process of handing it down must be restarted through short-term actions targeting young people in particular, such as the Jacmel carnival.

Furthermore, Haitian works of art and cultural objects, recognized as being of inestimable value for Haitian identity and the international community, are now at great risk of looting and irreversible damage and require emergency technical assistance not only to secure and preserve them but also to restore them and prevent them from being traded illegally. The built heritage, especially government buildings, religious buildings and historic houses, which has left a profound cultural and historical mark on Haitian identity, calls for emergency measures to prevent unauthorized demolition and strengthen relevant existing structures, including safeguarding the cultural property housed in these buildings. Lastly, it should be noted that Haiti's written heritage, and especially the libraries and national archives that constitute the nation's individual and collective historical memory, must be saved for future generations, particularly by measures to secure and store documents in danger of being scattered or destroyed, on the one hand, and digitization of this heritage on the other.

The Minister of Culture and Communication has appealed to the Director-General of UNESCO to set up, without delay, an international coordinating committee for the safeguarding of Haitian culture, responsible, under the auspices of UNESCO, for coordinating and monitoring the implementation by various international partners of the short-, medium- and long-term measures, as described below. Ms Comeau Denis has emphasized that this list of measures is not exhaustive and may be added to through specific working meetings inasmuch as time constraints have made it impossible to raise all the problems.

#### **Built heritage and urban areas**

- Emergency measures:
  - Specifically identify damaged sites in order to protect them against unauthorized demolition, including through use of (Google-type) detailed mapping and satellite images;
  - Set up a universally accessible common database on damage and needs (multi-disciplinary inventories);

- Provisionally stabilize buildings at risk and secure the most important buildings;
- Establish a methodology for assessing damaged structures and sites.
- Medium-term measures:
  - Train Haitian staff/local volunteers (applies to all fields);
  - Rebuild some complexes using traditional materials and taking account of local specificities and natural risks;
  - Draw up inventories of sites (including archaeological sites) and monuments to be placed under the protection of the Haitian State.

### **Museums and cultural institutions**

- Emergency measures:
  - Draw up emergency inventories of relocated collections (photos, simplified forms, labels);
  - Prepare as exhaustive an inventory as possible of institutions and their collections at risk of looting and secure the latter in cooperation with the Haitian authorities, MINUSTAH and any other volunteers;
  - Strengthen cooperation to combat looting and illicit trafficking in cultural property (ICOM, WCO, Interpol, MINUSTAH);
  - Prepare a Red List of categories of property particularly at risk of looting (ICOM);
  - Provide emergency resources and equipment (containers, vehicles, etc) for Haitian staff trying to secure collections to enable them to continue this work;
  - Identify potential storage areas for temporary preservation of collections and to allow emergency inventories of them;
  - Clarify the Haitian State's position regarding measures for safeguarding private collections.
- Medium-term measures:
  - Make art market clients aware of the risks of illicit trafficking, including through the Internet;
  - Restore damaged artefacts in a laboratory inside the country with Haitian experts.

### **Intangible heritage**

- Emergency measures:
  - Compile a list of custodians of intangible traditions and the people/bodies who hand them down;

- Provide resources, materials, instruments, etc. to ensure continued expression of intangible traditions and take care of “wounded souls”.
- Medium-term measures:
  - Facilitate organization of performances by storytellers, musicians, poets, etc., inside and outside Haiti;
  - Give the Jacmel carnival the means to reorganize.

### **Archives, libraries and manuscripts**

- Emergency measures:
  - Secure libraries and identify storage areas in order to transfer the collections that can be saved;
  - Compile inventories of and assess the collections transferred and determine treatment required;
  - Organize mobile emergency treatment units;
  - Provide the people in the Port-au-Prince camps with mobile libraries.
- Medium-term measures:
  - Identify restoration workshops abroad and, if necessary and as a last resort, transfer artefacts to be treated there;
  - Train local restorers in long-term conservation;
  - Start digitizing the contents of Haiti’s libraries.

### **Creative industries**

- Emergency measures:
  - Compile a list of craft associations;
  - Ensure access to raw materials;
  - Create an emergency fund for artists and craft workers.
- Medium-term measures:
  - Rebuild the chain by creating, producing, developing, promoting and marketing craft work;
  - Formulate a strategy to consolidate existing markets and gain access to the international market by:
    - strengthening public and private bodies and professional organizations;
    - using new technologies to maximize the impact of networks.

### **Coordination and general points**

- Emergency measures:
  - Ministry of Culture coordinates the public institutions that must set the priorities for cultural reconstruction (setting up a task force);
  - Give cultural institutions the minimum resources they need to operate;
  - Consider introducing special temporary legal measures to protect Haiti's heritage, including private heritage (according to the Haitian delegation, the existing legal framework can be used for the time being to extend State protection beyond public heritage on the basis of the decree of 23 August 1995 and Article 15 of the Constitution);
  - All support must contribute to national capacity-building in the medium and long term.
  
- Medium-term measures:
  - Identify a focal point for creative industries and crafts to develop projects/programmes for presentation to donors to meet the needs identified by stakeholders;
  - Set up a special team of Haitian experts to work with the ICC.