



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

World Heritage

39 COM

WHC-15/39.COM/5D

Paris, 15 May 2015

Original: English

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

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-ninth session

**Bonn, Germany
28 June – 8 July 2015**

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and
the Advisory Bodies**

5D. World Heritage and Sustainable Development

SUMMARY

This document presents the draft of a policy to integrate a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, which had been requested by the Committee in its Decision **36 COM 5C**, as well as actions that are envisaged.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 5D, see Point II.

BACKGROUND

1. The World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) had welcomed the outcome of an expert meeting on the relations between the World Heritage Convention, conservation and sustainable development that was held in Paraty (Brazil) from 29 to 31 March 2010, and agreed that it would be desirable to further consider, in the implementation of the Convention, policies and procedures to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of properties, and also contribute to sustainable development. A second expert meeting on the topic took place again in Brazil (Ouro Preto) in February 2012, at the request of the Committee and within the framework of the celebrations for the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The conclusions of the Ouro Preto meeting¹ recognized the urgent need for the World Heritage community to engage more effectively with the sustainable development agenda, and called therefore for a specific policy that would integrate a concern for sustainable development within the operational processes of the World Heritage Convention. This was to contribute directly to the objectives set within the *Strategic Action Plan and Vision to guide the implementation of the World Heritage Convention over the decade 2012-2022*, adopted by Resolution **18 GA 11** of the 18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2011), notably to Objective 3².
2. By its Decision **36 COM 5C**, therefore, the World Heritage Committee requested the World Heritage Centre, with the support of the Advisory Bodies, to convene a small expert working group to develop a proposal for a policy on the integration of sustainable development into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, for possible inclusion in the future *Policy Guidelines* called for by the Committee in paragraph 11 of its Decision **35 COM 12B**.
3. The overall goal of such a policy, as determined by the Committee, was to assist States Parties, practitioners, institutions, communities and networks, through appropriate guidance, to harness the potential of World Heritage properties, and heritage in general, to contribute to sustainable development, and to ensure - at the same time - that their conservation and management strategies are appropriately aligned with broader sustainable development objectives. In the process, of course, the primary objective of the World Heritage Convention, which is to protect the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, should not be compromised. Indeed, an important aim of the new policy is to help harnessing the benefits that engagement in sustainable development can deliver to World Heritage properties.
4. A group of experts was thus established by the Secretariat, working on a voluntary basis, to develop a draft of the policy (see Policy Document in Annex). This was elaborated based on 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"³. The draft policy took also into account the outcomes of the events related to the 40th Anniversary of the Convention in 2012⁴ and other important reference documents, as well as the

¹ Accessible from : <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-794-2.pdf>

² The Strategic Action Plan is accessible from : <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-18ga-11-en.pdf>

³ Accessible online from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

⁴ An analytical summary of the outcomes of all events associated to the 40th Anniversary is available from : <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/>

analogous work being conducted in the framework of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage⁵.

5. The policy focuses thus on the four core dimensions of sustainable development, namely: Environmental Sustainability; Inclusive Social Development; Inclusive Economic Development; and Peace and Security. These are further articulated in additional sub-themes, identified because of their relevance to the specific scope of the World Heritage Convention. Such methodology, as well as the group of experts, had been endorsed by the Committee by its decision **38 COM 5D**, taken at its 38th Session (Doha, 2014), when reviewing a progress report.
6. The group of expert benefited from the opportunity to meet a first time in Cottbus, Germany, between 12 and 16 October 2014, together with Advisory Bodies representatives, where they were able to discuss and harmonize their preliminary draft policy statements. The meeting was co-organized by the Technical University of Brandenburg (BTU) and the World Heritage Centre with financial support from the German Government. A second workshop took place in Ninh Binh (Viet Nam), between 22 and 24 January 2015, assembling representatives from the Advisory Bodies, experts from the working group, ten site managers from all regions of the world, as well as a number of Vietnamese colleagues and officials. The workshop, which benefited from the case study of the recently inscribed World Heritage property of the Trang An Landscape Complex, helped reviewing, testing and providing constructive criticism of the policy from the point of view of those who are responsible for the implementation of the Convention “on the ground”. The Ninh Binh Workshop was made possible thanks to a generous contribution from the Vietnamese Government.
7. The Draft Policy is hereby submitted to the consideration of the Committee, which might wish to endorse it, and decide to transmit the revised Policy for discussion and adoption at the 20th General Assembly of States Parties in 2015, incorporating views expressed at the 39th session of the Committee. The adopted policy should be included within the future *Policy Guidelines* of the World Heritage Convention.
8. The above process would also enable a broader consultation and, very importantly, the integration, in the final document to be submitted to the General Assembly in November 2015, of the outcomes of the ongoing discussions on the UN Post-2015 development agenda, taking place within the UN General Assembly, which is expected to identify in September 2015 a set of new sustainable development goals for the period 2015-2030.
9. Once the policy is adopted, it will be necessary to identify the relevant implications in procedural terms, so as to ensure that its principles are translated into actual practice in the implementation of the various processes of the Convention. These should result in proposals for specific changes to the *Operational Guidelines*, which the group of experts could develop in close consultation with the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies. In addition, the process for the elaboration of the policy, and particularly the comments received from site managers and administrators at the Ninh Binh Workshop, strongly suggested that a number of capacity building initiatives would be needed to enable the application of the policy by those concerned, including case studies, guidelines and training programmes.

⁵ See Document ITH/14/9.COM/13.b, accessible from <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00009>

10. Resources to undertake these much-needed activities are at the moment not available. However, without these the expected impact of the adopted policy would be significantly reduced. For this reason, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies strongly call on States Parties to contribute extra-budgetary resources to this important endeavour.

II. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 39 COM 5D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/5D,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 5C** and **38 COM 5D**, adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions,*
3. *Thanks the Technical University of Brandenburg, the Government of Germany and the Government of Viet Nam for having supported the development of the policy for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention through the organization of two workshops in Cottbus (Germany) and Ninh Binh (Viet Nam), respectively in October 2014 and January 2015;*
4. *Welcomes the work accomplished by the group of experts on a voluntary basis, under the coordination of the World Heritage Centre and in close consultation with the Advisory Bodies, despite the lack of resources;*
5. *Endorses the “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention” as described in Annex to Document WHC-15/39.COM/5D;*
6. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to revise the policy document by incorporating views expressed at the 39th session, as well as by taking into account the final outcome of the negotiations for the establishment of the UN Post-2015 development agenda and other relevant processes,*
7. *Decides to transmit the revised Policy Document for discussion and adoption at the 20th General Assembly of States Parties in 2015;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, along with the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate - once the policy document is adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties and within the available resources - proposals for specific changes to the Operational Guidelines that would be required to translate the principles of the policy document into actual operational procedures, as well as for capacity-building initiatives that would be needed to enable the implementation of the newly adopted policy, including an indication of the related costs, and to submit these to the consideration of the Committee as soon as possible within the framework of the established process for the revision of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Calls on States Parties to contribute financially to this end;*
10. *Encourages the World Heritage Centre to sensitize States Parties, as appropriate, to the adoption of the policy as well as to its implications, notably in terms of the need to establish the appropriate governance mechanisms to achieve the appropriate balance*

and integration between the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives;

11. *Also encourages UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to disseminate widely the Policy Document as adopted by the General Assembly, and other related publications through appropriate means to the World Heritage community and the broader public, and promote its application;*
12. *Recommends to the Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs related to World Heritage and to the wider network of the UNESCO Forum – Universities and Heritage, to prioritize issues related to the implementation of the policy within their capacity-building and research initiatives;*
13. *Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present to the Committee, at its 40th session in 2016, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above provisions.*

ANNEX
Draft Policy for the integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective
In to the processes of the World Heritage Convention

I. THE NEED FOR A POLICY

1. Recognising that the World Heritage Convention is an integral part of UNESCO's overarching mandate to foster equitable sustainable development⁶ and to promote peace and security⁷, and with a view to ensuring policy coherence with the Post-2015 UN sustainable development agenda, 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”⁸.
2. Indeed, 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 spectrum of economic, social and environmental values and needs encompassed in the sustainable development concept.
3. By identifying, protecting, conserving, presenting and transmitting to 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. At the same time, strengthening the four dimensions of sustainable development that are environmental sustainability, inclusive social and economic development, and the fostering of peace and security⁹, may bring benefits to World Heritage properties and support their OUV, if carefully integrated within conservation and management systems for World Heritage properties.
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. At the same time, States Parties should ensure that their conservation and management strategies are aligned with broader sustainable development objectives. This will involve maximising all opportunities for a positive contribution and ensuring no harm is done to sustainable development objectives through activities for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties. In the process, their OUV should not be compromised.

⁶ A glossary for key terms is provided in the appendix.

⁷These 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/>

⁸Quote from the Budapest Declaration, accessible from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/1334>

⁹These four dimensions of sustainable development, namely: environmental sustainability; inclusive social development; inclusive economic development; and peace and security were elaborated based on 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”. These four dimensions were endorsed by the Committee by its decision **38 COM 5D**.

5. The integration of a sustainable development perspective into the World Heritage Convention will enable all stakeholders involved in its national implementation 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. At the same time, 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 all appropriate means, that World Heritage conservation and management strategies that incorporate a sustainable development perspective embraces 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:¹⁰
 - i. **Human Rights**¹¹ - 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 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 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 World Heritage properties. These have often developed over time through mutual adaptation between humans and the environment, interacting with 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. The four 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

¹⁰These principles derive from the UN Task Team Report “Realizing the Future We Want for All”.

¹¹ Specific provisions on Human Rights are addressed in Section III as a component of inclusive social development.

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 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. For this reason, 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.
11. The integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention will require the building of adequate capacities among practitioners, institutions, concerned communities and networks, across a wide interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial spectrum. To this end, States Parties should foster scientific studies and research, organize training and provide quality education through a variety of learning environments tailored to each audience. 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.

III. THE FOUR CORE DIMENSIONS

12. The role of World Heritage properties as a guarantee of sustainable development needs to be strengthened. Their full potential to contribute to sustainable development also needs to be harnessed. To this end, States Parties in implementing the Convention should consider the four core dimensions of environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, and peace and security, as articulated below.

Core Dimension 1: Environmental Sustainability

13. 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 mixed and cultural World Heritage properties. In implementing the Convention, States Parties should therefore promote environmental sustainability more generally to ensure policy coherence and mutual supportiveness with other multilateral environmental agreements. This involves a responsible interaction with the environment in both natural and cultural 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 benefits

14. States Parties should ensure that biological and cultural diversity, as well as ecosystem benefits for people, that contribute to environmental sustainability are protected and enhanced within World Heritage properties, their buffer zones and their wider settings. To this end, States Parties should:
- i. Integrate consideration for biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem 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 impact assessment tools - in particular, when undertaking planning in sectors such as energy, transport, infrastructure and waste management as well as by applying sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change

15. 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 and climate change multilateral agreements¹², 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 goods and services, and traditional knowledge and practices and their ability to strengthen 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, while protecting their OUV;
 - 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.

Core Dimension 2: Inclusive Social Development

16. 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, 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

¹²Within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, these include the *Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties* (2007) and the *Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties* (2008).

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

17. States Parties should ensure that the conservation and management of World Heritage properties is based on 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

18. 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, States Parties should:

- i. Adopt adequate measures to ensure the availability of basic infrastructure and services for communities in and around World Heritage properties, fully respecting their OUV;
- ii. Promote and enhance environmental health (including the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation) for all, fully respecting the OUV of properties.

Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights

19. 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 (UNESCO 2003)¹³. To ensure policy coherence in conserving 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 realisation of human rights;
- iii. Develop, through equitable participation of concerned people, relevant standards and safeguards, guidance tools and operational mechanisms for assessment,

¹³UNESCO Constitution is available from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226924e.pdf#page=6> and UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights is available from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001457/145734e.pdf>

- 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

20. The World Heritage Convention includes, as one of its strategic objectives (the fifth 'C') "to enhance the role of communities in (its) implementation" (Decision 31COM 13B). The World Heritage Committee specifically encourages the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of World Heritage properties and the respect of indigenous peoples in nominating, managing and reporting on World Heritage properties in their own territories (Decision 35COM 12E). Recognising rights and fully involving indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with international standards¹⁴ is at the heart of sustainable development.
21. 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 and local communities where World Heritage nomination, management and policy measures affect their territories, lands, resources and ways of life;
 - iii. Actively promote indigenous and local initiatives to develop equitable governance arrangements, collaborative management systems and, when appropriate, redress mechanisms.

Achieving gender equality

22. Gender equality is one of UNESCO's two global priorities¹⁵. 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 goals¹⁶. 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;

¹⁴Such 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

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

¹⁶An 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>

- iv. When or where relevant, ensure that limited access to World Heritage properties based on gender-rooted traditional practices has received the full consent of all groups within the local communities, through transparent consultation processes that fully respects gender equality.

Core Dimension 3: Inclusive Economic Development

23. 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 populations¹⁷. Recognising that poverty eradication is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, the Convention should therefore contribute to promoting sustainable forms of inclusive and equitable economic growth, productive and decent employment and income-generating activities for all, while fully respecting the OUV of World Heritage properties¹⁸.

Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods

24. 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 develop policies and mechanisms for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties that:

- i. Enable enduring, inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth, 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 community-based tourism

25. World Heritage properties are important travel destinations that, if managed properly, have great potential for inclusive local economic development, sustainability and strengthening social resilience. Community-based tourism development should be accompanied by inclusive and equitable economic investment to ensure benefit sharing in and around World Heritage properties¹⁹. For this reason, States Parties should:

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".

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 World Heritage Committee urged all States Parties to the Convention and leading industry stakeholders "to respect the "No-go" commitment by not permitting extractives 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 Article 4 of 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, underlining that "tourism is a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and contributor to its enhancement".

- 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, where appropriate, to complement other sources of growth, so as to promote economic diversification between tourist and non-tourist activities. This will strengthen social and economic resilience in a way that also helps protect the OUV of properties;
- 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 and implement socio-economic impact assessment prior to the approval of tourism projects associated with World Heritage properties, in particular in urban areas and historic cities.

Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship

26. 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 creative and cultural 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.

Core Dimension 4: Peace and Security

27. 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, as appropriate, as well as in accordance with 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.
28. Recalling also the *UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity* (2001), States Parties should therefore acknowledge the reality of cultural diversity within and around World Heritage properties, and promote a culturally pluralistic approach in strategies for their conservation and management. States Parties should also 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

29. 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 armed 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;
 - 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. Prioritise Tentative List additions and nominations for World Heritage listing that "exhibit an important interchange of human values..." (Criterion ii) and have potential to generate fruitful dialogue between States Parties and different cultural communities or celebrate the achievement of peace, security and harmonious cultural diversity;
 - iv. Adopt cross-culturally sensitive approaches to the interpretation of World Heritage properties that are of significance to various local communities and other stakeholders;
 - v. Identify, nominate and manage transboundary/transnational heritage properties and, where appropriate, support mentoring arrangements in order to foster dialogue between neighboring States Parties or non-contiguous States Parties sharing a common heritage.

Protecting heritage during conflict

30. 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

31. 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:
- i. Ensure that the importance of safeguarding heritage is included in negotiations aimed at ending armed conflict and civil unrest.

Contributing to post-conflict reconstruction

32. After the end of a conflict, World Heritage properties and their wider settings can make a significant contribution to recovery and reconstruction. To this end, States Parties should:
- 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 reconstruction 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. Limit the representation of heritage places associated with conflicts on national Tentative Lists to those of unquestionable universal value.

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

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 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." (OHCHR 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 (IPCC, 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." (UNWTO)

Transnational Inscription:

The *Operational Guidelines* (2013) equate ‘transnational’ and ‘transboundary’ but do not define the concept further. Such a nomination comes from two or more States Parties. 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.