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**SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY
IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY
IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

Tenth Meeting
UNESCO Headquarters
10 and 11 December 2015

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda:
**Development of synergies with other relevant UNESCO's normative
instruments and programmes and strengthening partnerships**

The present document provides an update on the development of synergies with other UNESCO standard-setting instruments and programmes and the strengthening partnerships since the ninth meeting of the Committee (UNESCO Headquarters, 18-19 December 2014).

Draft decision: paragraph 16

1. At its Ninth Meeting, held on 18 and 19 December 2014, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (“the Committee”) examined the document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/7¹. It welcomed further development of synergies with other UNESCO normative instruments in the field of culture, programmes and the strengthening partnerships. By its Decision 9.COM 7, the Committee invited the Secretariat, “to continue the development of synergies with other UNESCO normative instruments and programmes as well as other relevant International Humanitarian Law instruments, and strengthening partnerships for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and to inform the Committee at its Tenth Meeting of progress achieved”.
2. The same Decision also invited “the Director-General to organise at least once a year consultation meetings of the Chairpersons of the Statutory Bodies established by the Culture Conventions, having as a subject *inter alia* developing synergies among those Conventions and where relevant report back to the different Statutory Bodies”.
3. At the same meeting, the Committee examined the document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/13,² prepared by Belgium on the question of strengthening synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol and the 1972 World Heritage Convention. By its Decision 9.COM 13, the Committee encouraged “all the States Parties to the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol to lend support in the appropriate circles to the Committee’s proposed amendments” and requested its Chairperson and the Committee’s Bureau to take the necessary steps to make the World Heritage Committee aware of the importance of lending support to the amendments proposed in the Annex 2 of the document 14/9.COM/CONF.203/13.
4. Decision 9.COM 13 also requested the Director-General “to forward all the relevant documents for consideration by the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee” and “to propose to the World Heritage Committee to consider, within the framework of preparation of the third periodic reporting cycle on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the synergies to develop between sections I and II and the national reports required by the Hague Convention and the Second Protocol”.
5. Since both decisions of the Committee - 9.COM 7 and 9.COM 13 - concern the development of synergies with relevant UNESCO normative instruments and programmes and the strengthening partnerships, the present document provides the general follow-up. It consists of three parts: (i) synergies with the World Heritage Convention; (ii) synergies with other relevant UNESCO standard-setting instruments and programmes as well as with other relevant international humanitarian law instruments; and (iii) the strengthening of partnerships with all stakeholders concerned with the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

I. Synergies with the World Heritage Convention

6. Further to the Ninth Meeting of the Committee, the Government of Japan transmitted its observations to the Secretariat concerning the document 14/9.COM/CONF.203/13, proposed by Belgium, on strengthening synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol and the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The Secretariat uploaded the observations to the website of the 1999 Second Protocol and dispatched them via email to all Committee members on 3 June 2015.³
7. Pursuant to Decision 9.COM 13, all the relevant documents were presented to the World Heritage Committee for consideration at its 39th session, which was held in Bonn (Germany) from 28 June to 8 July 2015. The considerations of the Advisory Bodies and the World

¹ See the document: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002308/230820E.pdf>

² See the document:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/9COM_Synergies_Belgianproposals_13_ENG_FINAL.pdf

³ See the observations of the Government of Japan:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/JapanComment-BelgiumProposal-En.pdf>

Heritage Centre on the proposal to revise the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (hereinafter “the Operational Guidelines”) to allow Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol to request, on an optional basis, the inscription of cultural property on the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, were also included in the document WHC-15/39.COM/11 on “Revision of the Operational Guidelines” prepared by the World Heritage Centre. This document was considered by the Consultative Body on the Operational Guidelines at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, as well as by the World Heritage Committee.⁴

8. Taking into account the differences between the 1999 Second Protocol and the 1972 World Heritage Convention in terms of criteria for assessing the “greatest importance of humanity” (for the Second Protocol) and “Outstanding Universal Value” (for the World Heritage Convention), the scope of the two standard-setting instruments and the required documentation for the nomination, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre noted that at this stage it was not possible to present a specific proposal for the revision of the Nomination Format of the Operational Guidelines with regard to the synergies between the World Heritage Convention and the 1999 Second Protocol. Therefore, it advised to the World Heritage Committee “to examine all the different options for further developing synergies (amendment of paragraphs related to nominations and Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines; amending and adapting the Periodic reporting format; other possible options.
9. Having examined the document WHC-15/39.COM/11 and the report by the Consultative Body on the Operational Guidelines, at its 39th session, the World Heritage Committee requested, by its Decision 39 COM 11, “that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Hague Convention (1954), consider options for further developing concrete synergies and coordinating reporting mechanisms between the World Heritage Convention and the Second Protocol (1999) of the Hague Convention (1954) for the next revision of the Operational Guidelines in 2017 and while revising the Periodic Reporting Format during the Reflection Period towards the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting”.⁵
10. It should also be emphasized that the Secretariat continues to encourage States Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol to request the granting of enhanced protection for their cultural World Heritage sites, as appropriate. In addition, the Secretariat works closely with the World Heritage Centre to strengthen the synergies between the 1999 Second Protocol and the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

II. Synergies with other relevant UNESCO standard-setting instruments and programmes as well as with other relevant international humanitarian law instruments

11. As a follow-up to Decision 9.COM 7 of the Committee, a Meeting of the Chairpersons of UNESCO’s Culture Conventions was organized as a side event on the first day of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, on 29 June 2015 in Bonn, Germany. Chairpersons of the six UNESCO Culture Conventions or their representatives were present at the meeting. Mr Lassana Cissé (Mali) was asked by the Chairperson to represent the Committee of the 1999 Second Protocol as Vice-Chair.
12. The Chairpersons of UNESCO’s Culture Conventions welcomed the initiative to hold the meeting, emphasized the importance of the collaboration and the further development of synergies between Conventions. The Director-General of UNESCO also expressed her appreciation for the rich debate and her interest in continuing to explore further synergies among the Culture Conventions. It was also noted that following Decision 9.COM 7 of the Committee, a yearly meeting of the Chairpersons was envisaged.

⁴ Please see paragraphs 18-27 of the document: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-11-en.pdf>

⁵ Please see the decision: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-19-en.pdf>

13. Finally, the Chairpersons presented a Joint Statement, which was uploaded to the website of the Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.⁶

III. Strengthening of partnerships with all stakeholders concerned with the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict

14. The Secretariat maintains close contact with various stakeholders concerned with the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including the Blue Shield, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

15. The Secretariat has been working with the Sanremo International Institute of Humanitarian Law on the preparation of a Manual for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for Armed Forces, the first publication of this kind.

16. The Committee may wish to adopt the following Decision:

DRAFT DECISION 10.COM 4

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CLT-15/10.COM/CONF.203/4,
2. Welcomes Decision 39 COM 11 of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, Germany) on the development of synergies and coordinating reporting mechanisms between the World Heritage Convention and the 1999 Second Protocol;
3. Also welcomes further development of synergies with other UNESCO standard-setting instruments, programmes and other relevant international humanitarian law instruments, and the strengthening partnerships;
4. Notes with appreciation the organization of the first meeting of the Chairpersons of UNESCO's Culture Convention on 29 June 2015 (Bonn, Germany) and recommends the organization of such meeting at least once a year;
5. Invites the Secretariat to continue the development of synergies with UNESCO's standard-setting instruments and programmes and the strengthening partnerships and to inform the Committee at its eleventh meeting of the progress achieved.

⁶ Please see the Joint Statement:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Statement_EN_FINAL_300615_01.pdf