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

**SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE SECOND PROTOCOL
TO THE 1954 HAGUE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION
OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT
(Paris, 20 December 2007)**

FINAL REPORT

I. Opening of the Meeting

1. The second meeting of the Parties to the Second Protocol took place at UNESCO Headquarters on Thursday afternoon, 20 December 2007, after the seventh meeting of the High Contracting Parties which was held in the morning. The representatives of the following 32 States Parties (out of a total number of 47) took part in the meeting: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland. The following were also represented as observers: nineteen States not party to the Second Protocol (Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Djibouti, the Holy See, Italy, Kuwait, Mali, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America); two intergovernmental organizations (ICRC and ISESCO); and four non-governmental organizations (ICA, ICBS, ICOM and ICOMOS). A copy of the list of participants is available upon request from the Secretariat.
2. UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Culture, Ms Françoise Rivière, opened the meeting. She pointed out that as her opening address for the seventh meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention partially overlapped with her introductory remarks for the current meeting, she proposed to proceed to the next point of the provisional agenda – the election of the Chairperson.

II. Election of the Chairperson

3. Mr Adriaan Bos (the Netherlands) was elected Chairperson of the meeting by consensus.

III. Adoption of the agenda

4. The agenda contained in document CLT-07/CONF/214/1 was amended so as to elect first the six new members of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (“the Committee”) and then to consider the Draft Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol (“the Draft Guidelines”).

IV. Election of the four Vice-Chairpersons and the Rapporteur

5. Mr José Luis Fernández Valoni (Argentina) was appointed Rapporteur of the Meeting. Slovenia was elected as one of the Vice-Chairpersons. Regarding the three other Vice-Chairpersons, the meeting decided to deal with this issue at a later stage and consequently no decision was taken.

V. Introductory statement of the Secretariat on the status and implementation of the Second Protocol to the Convention, followed by discussion

6. As the Secretariat’s presentation partially overlapped with its presentation for the seventh meeting of the High Contracting Parties, the Chairperson proposed to proceed directly to the next point of the agenda – election of six members of the Committee.

VI. Election of six members of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

7. The Chairperson recalled the composition of the Committee and stressed that there were six members of the Committee whose terms expired on the occasion of the second Meeting of the Parties (Argentina, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lithuania). He went on to remind the meeting of the relevant procedural rules of the Second Protocol and, in particular, of the provision of its Article 25(1), which provides for the possibility of an immediate re-election of a Party to the Committee. The Chairperson then noted that there were six candidates (Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Japan and the Netherlands) for six seats. Consequently, he proposed to elect the six members of the Committee by acclamation. This proposal was accepted by the meeting and the six above-mentioned candidates were elected to the Committee. Thus, the Committee is composed as follows: six members whose mandate expires in 2009 (Austria, El Salvador, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Peru, Serbia and Switzerland) and other six members whose mandate expires in 2011 (Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Japan and the Netherlands).

VII. Consideration of the Draft Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol

8. Dr Bazil, Chairperson of the Committee, summarized the different stages of the elaboration of the Draft Guidelines and introduced the main tenets of the new version of the Draft Guidelines developed by the Committee at its second meeting (UNESCO, 17 – 19 December 2007). His presentation was followed by a discussion dealing mainly with procedural issues with regard to the endorsement of the Draft Guidelines.
9. Some Delegations proposed to the meeting to endorse the December 2007 version of the Draft Guidelines. However, several Parties declared that they were unable to endorse the current version of the Draft Guidelines before prior consultation with their competent authorities. They also pointed out that the relevant working documents had to be distributed well in advance.
10. Finally, it was decided to organize an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2008 to endorse the Draft Guidelines developed by the Committee, as recommended by the Committee itself at its second meeting. It was also decided to send the December 2007 version of the Draft Guidelines to all Committee members for possible errors and omissions in order to enable the Secretariat to transmit a consolidated version of this text to the third meeting of the Committee scheduled to take place in the first half of 2008.

VIII. Adoption of recommendations

11. The Chairperson opened the debate on the draft recommendation summing up the main points raised during the meeting. This document is reproduced in Annex I.

IX. Other business

12. A number of Committee members and observers expressed their deep concern over insufficient human and financial resources allocated to the institutional machinery established by the Second Protocol.

X. Closure of the meeting

13. After thanking all the participants and the Secretariat for their helpful contributions, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

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

(UNESCO, 20 December 2007, 3 p. m. – 6 p. m.)

ROOM XI**ADOPTED RECOMMENDATION**

The States Parties to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict:

Noting that the Seventh meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Hague Convention has taken place on the morning of this same day;

Thanking the UNESCO Secretariat, Member States and other participating intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their active contribution to the promotion and dissemination of the Convention and its two Protocols;

Recalling the approved program and budget of 2008-2009 [Document 34 C/5] by which the General Conference encouraged the effective implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, notably by providing increased support to the intergovernmental mechanism.

- 1. ENCOURAGE** States not yet party to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention to promptly join it and to adopt and implement effectively relevant national legislation.
- 2. WELCOME** the efforts by the Secretariat to provide advice to States in order to facilitate the ratification process and the implementation of the Second Protocol.
- 3. CONGRATULATE** the six newly elected members of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.
- 4. INVITE** the Director-General to (i) distribute the report and the recommendations of the present meeting to all UNESCO Member States and to international organizations concerned; and (ii) convene a third meeting of the

Parties to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention on the occasion of the thirty-fifth session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

5. TAKE NOTE of the recommendations adopted by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict at its second meeting and **INVITE** the Director General to convene an extra-ordinary meeting of the Parties in 2008 with the aim of endorsing the Draft Guidelines developed by the Committee.

6. INVITE the Committee to continue its deliberations in a meeting prior to the extra-ordinary meeting of the Parties in order to finalize its work on the Draft Guidelines for the implementation of the Second Protocol including the chapters on dissemination, monitoring and international assistance.

7. RECOMMEND to the Director-General to provide sufficient human and financial resources in order to ensure the assistance by the Secretariat of UNESCO in the implementation of the Convention and its two Protocols.