



United Nations
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Organisation
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pour l'éducation,
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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TENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XI, 10-11 December 2015

STATEMENT

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The Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict established by the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention at its Tenth Meeting

issued the following Statement:

Expressing its grave concern at the repeated deliberate barbaric attacks against cultural property throughout the world, in particular in Iraq, Libya, Mali, Syria and Yemen,

Recalling the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), and in particular paragraphs 15 to 17, unanimously condemning the destruction of cultural heritage and calling States to adopt appropriate steps to combat the illicit trafficking of antiquities and cultural objects from Syria and Iraq,

Bearing in mind the Bonn Declaration on the occasion of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee and the strategy for “Reinforcing UNESCO’s Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict” adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session,

Recalling the mandate assigned to the Committee under Article 27 of the Second Protocol, particularly in the context of monitoring and supervising the implementation of the Second Protocol,

Strongly condemns all the cases of breaches of the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol related to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and particularly the serious violations described in Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Second Protocol;

Calls upon, in particular, all Parties to the Hague Convention and its two Protocols to conduct their peacetime activities, as well as those in the event of armed conflict, including in the case of occupation, in the spirit of UNESCO’s Declaration of 17 October 2003 concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage;

Requests the Parties to the Second Protocol who have not yet done so to harmonize their criminal legislation with Chapter 4 of the Second Protocol and ensure their effective implementation in order to improve the protection of cultural property;

Calls upon the Parties to react immediately to the serious violations of the Second Protocol by undertaking relevant measures in order to stop and prevent such violations;

Encourages States, which have not yet done so, to become party to the Convention and its two Protocols;

Also encourages the Parties to introduce requests for the granting of enhanced protection, including those as a result of an emergency situation, and to prepare and to regularly update the inventories as provided for in Article 5 of the Second Protocol;

Invites the Director-General to initiate discussions across the UN system and with involvement of the ICRC and the International Committee of the Blue Shield on the improvement of the protection of cultural heritage, in particular with a view to preventing and combatting the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage;

Calls upon the Parties, in situations of serious violations of the Protocol to act, jointly through the Committee, or individually, in cooperation with UNESCO and the United Nations, and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and Article 31 of the Second Protocol, in order to cease such violations.