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**JERUSALEM AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
35 C/RESOLUTION 49 AND 185 EX/DECISION 14**

SUMMARY

This document is presented pursuant to 185 EX/Decision 14, by which the Executive Board requested a follow-up report on this item.

The document reports on the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as on other projects for the Old City of Jerusalem, all of which are mainly financed through voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.

The Report by the Director-General on the implementation of 35 C/Resolution 49 and 185 EX/Decision 5, related to the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem, is presented in document 186 EX/5.

I. Action Plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem

1. The remaining funds of the first phase of the Action Plan funded by the Italian Government have been allocated to a new conservation/training project – the Rehabilitation of Al Saha Compound Façades – to be carried out with the Technical Unit of the Franciscan Custodia of the Holy Land. The project's training component, which is fundamental to improving the conservation skills of local workers, involves testing the Rehabilitation Manual produced in the framework of the Action Plan.

2. The conservation project of the Saint John Prodromos Church, funded by the Leventis Foundation from Cyprus, and implemented in close collaboration with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, started in July 2009. The architectural survey was carried out by the chosen experts. With the completion of additional work focused on archaeological research and humidity measures, the detailed restoration project will be finalized.

II. Other projects

3. The project for the development of an Architectural Heritage Preservation Institute in Jerusalem, funded by the European Commission (€700,000), and implemented in partnership with the Welfare Association, has been completed. The Welfare Association has organized two additional short and intensive training workshops and a long-term core course on the basis of the curriculum developed by ICCROM. It also produced two publications and training manuals, created a project database, technical library and website, and carried out awareness-raising sessions. A third Steering Committee meeting took place in May 2010 at UNESCO to review the progress and agree upon the activities to be implemented during the final phase of the project. A final workshop was organized in Jerusalem on 23 February 2011 to review the achievements of the project and discuss future action.

4. As a follow-up to the project for the establishment of a Centre for Restoration of Islamic Manuscripts, located in the Madrasa Al Ashrayfiyyah within the Haram al-Sharif, a capacity-building project, with funding from the Organization's regular programme (US \$190,000) is under way in order to provide training to new and existing staff in the fields of paper restoration and electronic inventorying. The objective is to ensure the long-term conservation of the Madrasa's invaluable collection of manuscripts and other historic documents. To this purpose, a tailor-made modular training programme is being finalized by international experts. It focuses on paper restoration and conservation, documentation, and on reinforcing managerial and organizational practices. The project will be completed in June 2011. UNESCO is exploring possibilities for launching a final phase of training financed from extrabudgetary sources.

5. Following the recruitment of four permanent staff by the Jordanian authorities, the development of the project for the safeguarding, refurbishment and revitalization of the Islamic Museum of the Haram al-Sharif and its collection, funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (\$1,130,000), which started in 2009, is progressing. Expert consultants were contracted in 2010 to assess the inventory needs of the collections, including data management. The Museum's staff participated in the first training module in inventorying the museum's collection in January 2011. UNESCO is currently in the process of procuring basic computer equipment that will be used to undertake the electronic inventory.

III. Brainstorming session

6. At its 34th session (July 2010, Brasilia, Brazil), the World Heritage Committee adopted Decision 34 COM 7A.20 by which it encouraged "the Director-General to take the necessary measures, in consultation and cooperation with the concerned parties, to reactivate and reinvigorate the implementation of the short-, medium- and long-term objectives of the Action Plan, including training, education and cultural activities, and the preservation of sites and monuments of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls as inscribed on the World Heritage List".

7. The Director-General invited Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian authorities to send experts to a “brainstorming session” at UNESCO Headquarters on 14 October 2010. The aim of this session was to discuss the means to reactivate the UNESCO Action Plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, as well as the potential framework for the Terms of Reference of the reactive monitoring mission requested by the World Heritage Committee.

8. The group of experts, committed to the conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and to maintaining its “outstanding universal value”, recommended the following priority actions:

- (a) building confidence and finding ways to establish cooperation;
- (b) updating the Action Plan, its work plan and timetable;
- (c) with reference to paragraph 11 of Decision 34 COM 7A.20, identifying appropriate mechanisms for UNESCO (e.g. a technical team and/or unit) to improve technical assistance for the implementation of the Action Plan and the safeguarding of the values of the site, by providing advice and support for the process of granting permits and facilitating safeguarding work and site access;
- (d) developing awareness-raising programmes, academic cooperation and cultural activities, targeted towards youth and women.

9. The World Heritage Committee had also requested “a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission” to the property as referred to in the Operational Guidelines to assess and advise on progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and, in cooperation and consultation with the concerned parties, to identify appropriate operational and financial mechanisms and modalities to strengthen technical cooperation with all concerned parties in the framework of the Action Plan”. During the meeting of 14 October, a potential framework for the Terms of Reference of the mission was discussed, and agreed upon.

10. The main purpose of this mission will be to resume contact with the parties concerned so as to reactivate and reinvigorate the implementation of the UNESCO Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem. The participants to the brainstorming session stressed that, as the first step, the foreseen mission should define a new baseline for the Action Plan, by updating the 2004 Report presented to the Director-General, the Executive Board of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee.

11. In accordance with the above-mentioned decision, the potential framework for the Terms of Reference of the mission would be the following:

- (a) review the ongoing or foreseen projects in the property, based on the information provided by the parties concerned, and assess the state of conservation of the property, according to paragraphs 169 to 177 of the Operational Guidelines, and in particular paragraph 172;
- (b) assess and advise on progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to date;
- (c) hold consultations with the parties concerned with a view to identifying appropriate operational and financial mechanisms and modalities to strengthen technical cooperation with all concerned parties in the framework of the Action Plan;
- (d) report thereon to the Director-General.

The proposed programme of the mission would include contacts with the parties and authorities concerned as well as the UNESCO partners in the implementation of the Action Plan. The members of the mission would be representatives of ICCROM, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre.

12. On 1 February 2011, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the Permanent Delegation of Israel to UNESCO requesting this mission and is awaiting a response. Should it be possible to undertake the mission prior to the session of the Executive Board, a report thereon would be submitted in the form of an addendum.

13. At the 185th session of the Executive Board in October 2010, a draft decision (185 EX/PX/DR.2) was submitted by a number of Member States. Despite considerable efforts, no consensus could be reached, and 185 EX/Decision 14 was adopted after a roll-call vote.

14. Within the framework of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the Jordanian and Israeli authorities have submitted technical reports related to the ongoing activities in the Old City of Jerusalem, to be presented to the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee in June 2011. The World Heritage Centre will request additional information related to some of the projects by the Israeli authorities, notably on the foreseen constructions on or nearby the Western Wall Plaza, and the continuing archaeological excavations.

15. Should additional information be available, an addendum to the present document would be issued before the 186th session of the Executive Board, in order to inform the Members of the Board on any related recent development.