



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and eighty-second session

# 182 EX/15

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## JERUSALEM AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 34 C/RESOLUTION 47 AND 181 EX/DECISION 12

### SUMMARY

This document is presented pursuant to 34 C/Resolution 47 and 181 EX/Decision 12, by which the Director-General was invited to report on the progress made concerning UNESCO's contribution to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the Action Plan for the safeguarding of this heritage.

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.

An addendum will be issued before the 182nd session of the Executive Board in order to inform the Members of the Board of recent developments related to this issue. This addendum will also contain a draft decision.

The Report by the Director-General on the implementation of 34 C/Resolution 47 and 181 EX/Decision 5 (II) related to the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem is presented in document 182 EX/5.

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

1. Thanks to the contribution of the Italian Government, the remaining activities foreseen within the first phase of the Action Plan will soon be completed, through the development of a World Heritage Education programme, within the framework of the UNESCO Special Project “Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion”. Materials already available will be distributed, including *Introducing Young People to Heritage Site Management and Protection* (adapting an activity initiated in 2002 in Petra by UNESCO and ICCROM to the case of Jerusalem), and the *World Heritage in Young Hands Kit*. Cultural activities (workshops, lectures and visits) are to be carried out in Jerusalem during the summer of 2009, mainly within already foreseen summer camps, with the participation of 10 to 16 year-olds, teachers and other educators from different schools in Jerusalem.

2. The work plan of the project for the restoration of the Church of St John Prodromos in Jerusalem, funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation (Cyprus) has been defined in consultation with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and international experts. The first phase of activities is focusing on preliminary studies and the architectural design, in order to define the detailed restoration interventions that will be carried out in the coming years.

3. In addition, the first of the identified priority projects in the Action Plan – the restoration of the Armenian Cathedral of St James – has found a sponsor in the Pro Sacris Locis Foundation. The project is being developed directly by this Italian Catholic foundation, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre has agreed to be associated with the initiative and to provide its technical and scientific assistance.

## **II. Other projects**

4. Thanks to funding to the value of €700,000 from the European Commission, the first phase of the development of an Architectural Heritage Preservation Institute has been completed, in partnership with the Welfare Association. Besides the development of the training curriculum, the Welfare Association also organized a 10-week pilot course for building contractors, with expertise being provided by ICCROM. Following the second meeting of the Steering Committee in March 2009, a second phase of the project was designed and is currently being developed.

5. The project for the Al Aqsa Centre for Restoration of Islamic Manuscripts, located in the Madrasa Al Ashrayfiyyah within the Haram ash-Sharif and funded by the Welfare Association and the United Arab Emirates, was completed in February 2009, further to the installation of the conservation equipment. A third phase of the project is presently being funded under the regular budget. The activities include further staff training and the provision of conservation equipment. Additional staff was engaged for the Centre by the Jerusalem Waqf.

6. Two UNESCO missions took place in March and July 2009, in order to refine the foreseen activities and start the implementation of the project for the “Safeguarding, Refurbishment and Revitalization of the Islamic Museum of al-Haram ash-Sharif and its Collection”, funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (US \$1,130,000). It is foreseen to recruit a local project coordinator, to send UNESCO consultants for the restoration of the building, to conserve the objects, to prepare an updated inventory of collections in English and Arabic, to build professional capacity for the staff, to improve display collections, and to define the educational messages. Four additional staff for the Museum will be recruited by the Jordanian authorities. An informal working group will be established to advise on the thematic and technical priorities of the Museum.

7. At its 33rd session (22-30 June 2009), held in Seville (Spain), the World Heritage Committee adopted by consensus and without debate Decision 33 COM 7A.18, which “takes note of the concerns expressed about the archaeological excavations undertaken in the Old City Of Jerusalem”, and “urges the Israeli authorities to prevent any actions that could undermine the authenticity and integrity of the cultural heritage of the Old City”. The Committee reasserted the

importance of the Action Plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and called upon international donors to strengthen their support in favour of its implementation. The decision of the Committee is presented in the Annex to this document.

8. An addendum to the present document will be issued before the 182nd session of the Executive Board, in order to inform the Members of the Board of any related recent development. This addendum will also contain a draft decision.

**ANNEX**

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

**World Heritage Committee  
Thirty-third session  
Seville, Spain (22-30 June 2009)**

**Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev.)**

**Decision: 33 COM 7A.18**

The World Heritage Committee,

**I**

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A. Add 2,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including, as appropriate, the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982), and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,
4. Affirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem,
5. Thanks international donors for their generous contributions to the UNESCO Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and calls upon the international donor community to further support, through extrabudgetary funding, activities aimed at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, in particular in the context of the Action Plan;
6. Asks the World Heritage Centre to make technical expertise and assistance available for the future conservation works foreseen in the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, taking into consideration the activities foreseen in the context of the Action Plan, as needed;
7. Takes note of the concerns expressed about the archaeological excavations undertaken in the Old City Of Jerusalem, and asks the Israeli authorities to provide the World Heritage Centre with all relevant and detailed information about them;
8. Urges Israeli authorities to prevent any actions that could undermine the authenticity and integrity of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem at its 34th session in 2010;

**II**

10. Recalling 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting/Decision, adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 176th session, Decision 32 COM 7A.18 adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec

City, 2008), and Decision 181 EX/5 (II) adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 181st session,

11. Reaffirming the purpose and spirit of the professional encounter at the technical level of 13 January 2008, as well as the follow-up meeting of 24 February 2008,
12. Noting the Sixth Reinforced Monitoring Report (February 2009) prepared by the World Heritage Centre,
13. Regretting the postponement of the follow-up meeting of experts which was scheduled on 12 November 2008, as called for in Decision 32 COM 7A.18 due to circumstances that have impeded Jordanian experts from having access to the Mughrabi Ascent site,
14. Recognizing the existence of deep concerns regarding the decision by the Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Commission on the town planning scheme for the Mughrabi Ascent,
15. Requests that, despite the decision mentioned in paragraph 14, the process for the design of the Mughrabi Ascent be inclusive of all parties concerned, in accordance with the spirit and content of previous World Heritage Committee decisions;
16. Reaffirms in this regard that no measures, unilateral or otherwise, should be taken which will affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, in accordance with the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972 and, as necessary, the relevant provisions of the UNESCO Conventions on the protection of cultural heritage;
17. Being aware that the process for the design of the Mughrabi Ascent, which allows for the taking into consideration of the designs submitted during the aforementioned professional encounter, is still under way, requests the World Heritage Centre to follow closely, in the context of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism, the developments associated with this process;
18. Thanks the World Heritage Centre for facilitating the holding of the professional encounter at the technical level of 13 January 2008, as well as the follow-up meeting of 24 February 2008, between Israel, Jordanian and Waqf experts, as requested by Decision 31 COM 7A.18;
19. Reiterates its request that the Israeli authorities continue the cooperation commenced with all concerned parties, in particular with Jordanian and Waqf experts;
20. Reaffirms the necessity of cooperation in order to arrange for access to the Mughrabi Ascent site, and reiterates the call on the Director-General to organize a follow-up meeting of experts as soon as possible, once the parties concerned have reached an agreement;
21. Takes note of the recent exchange of correspondence between Israel (letter dated 31 May 2009) and Jordan (letter dated 12 June 2009) aiming at reaching an agreement that may allow the Director-General to organize a follow-up meeting as soon as possible;
22. Decides to continue applying the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the state of conservation of the Mughrabi Ascent, and further requests a report from the World Heritage Centre at least every three months, until the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010;

### III

23. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**



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## JERUSALEM AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 34 C/RESOLUTION 47 AND 181 EX/DECISION 12

### ADDENDUM

#### SUMMARY

This document is an addendum to document 182 EX/15, concerning the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, and proposing a draft decision in this regard. No new information is to be reported since the issuance of 182 EX/15.

Decision proposed: paragraph 1.

1. In view of the information provided in document 182 EX/15, the members of the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 34 C/Resolution 47 and 181 EX/Decision 12, as well as the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and the related Protocols, and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the Recommendations, Resolutions and Decisions of UNESCO on the protection of cultural heritage,
2. Affirming that nothing in the present Decision, which is aimed at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations Resolutions and Decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council Resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem,
3. Having examined document 182 EX/15 and Add.,
4. Expresses its sincere thanks to the Director-General for his sustained efforts for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, in compliance with the relevant Resolutions and Decisions of the General Conference and of the

Executive Board, and reiterates its concern as to the obstacles and practices, unilateral or otherwise, affecting the preservation of the distinctive character of the Old City of Jerusalem;

5. Invites the Director-General to pursue his efforts with the concerned parties for the safeguarding of the outstanding universal value of the Old City of Jerusalem;
6. Thanks international donors for their generous contributions to the implementation of conservation, restoration and training activities in the Old City of Jerusalem, and encourages the Member States to contribute, through extrabudgetary resources, to pursue these activities, notably within the framework of the UNESCO Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem;
7. Decides to include this item on the agenda of the 184th session of the Executive Board and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.