

## Ocean Day 2014

### Information Session for Permanent Delegations on the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage by its Scientific and Technical Advisory Body

UNESCO Headquarters, 10 June 2014

(10 am – 1 pm, Room II)



Underwater cultural heritage, ranging from sunken cities and shipwrecks to prehistoric sites, constitutes an often-unexploited potential for research, education and development, while also providing insights into climate change over history. Underwater heritage can also contribute significantly to the development of sustainable tourism as many of these attractive sites are accessible to visitors. However many of these sites have not yet been sufficiently researched, protected and enhanced and remain under threat by treasure hunters and industrial operations.

While the international community has widely recognized the need to protect research and promote the ocean environment and biodiversity as well as land-based heritage sites, underwater heritage has yet to receive the same attention from national authorities and the general public. The importance of this issue has been recognized by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/231 and has been thoroughly regulated in the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. However additional efforts are required to ensure the full implementation of this unique international legal instrument.

The present event aims to explain the 2001 Convention, the importance of the cultural heritage of the oceans and the role and potential of the UNESCO Scientific and Technical Advisory Body.

## Agenda

### Opening

- Mechtild Rössler, Deputy Director of the UNESCO Division for Heritage, and
- Annalisa Zarattini, Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body
  
- The 2001 Convention and the Convention's Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, *Ulrike Guerin, Secretariat of the 2001 Convention, UNESCO*
  
- The importance of the full implementation of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage by States Parties, *Hossein Sadat, Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, Iran*
  
- The problem of pillaging and of industrial damage to submerged archaeological sites, *Michel L'Hour, Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, France*
  
- The importance of public awareness of underwater cultural heritage and the role of public access, *Dolores Elkin, Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, Argentina*
  
- The role and potential of underwater cultural heritage for sustainable development, as demonstrated by the case study of the sunken city of Baia, *Annalisa Zarattini, Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, Italy*
  
- The importance of the 2001 Convention for heritage preservation and sustainable development in Africa, *Augustus Babajide Ajibola, Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, Nigeria*

### Discussion and Questions and Answers