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INDIA

भारत

STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR RUCHIRA KAMBOJ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO UNESCO
ON PROTECTION OF IRAQI CULTURAL HERITAGE

AT
THE 195TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

PARIS

24 October 2014

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Mr. Chairperson,

We are deeply concerned about the situation in Iraq which poses a risk to all dimensions of human life. The risk to cultural property is no less. To this end, we appreciate the efforts of UNESCO in the direction of safeguarding and protecting Iraqi cultural heritage, notably the Emergency Response Action Plan launched in July 2014 which envisages action in the areas of communication and awareness raising, engaging international actors in cultural heritage protection, monitoring the state of protection, technical assistance and advice and damage assessment.

We also welcome the support provided by the Government of France in this regard. The symposium on "Iraqi Heritage at Risk: How to Protect It?" organized jointly by France and Iraq last month was indeed most informative and useful. India congratulates the Governments of France and Iraq for that.

We also thank the Delegations of France and Iraq in proposing the proposed comprehensive draft Decision on this matter which India strongly supports.

Thank you.