



United Nations
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Organización
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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**NINTH MEETING OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE 1954
HAGUE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN
THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

UNESCO Headquarters, 12 December 2011, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Room XII

**UNESCO's Standard Plan of Action
to Protect Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**

1. Contact with the warring parties in international and non-international armed conflicts

- a. Establish contacts with the warring parties (including States and non-State actors as applicable) and send letters to them signed by the Director-General regarding the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict:
 - i. Confirm whether they are party to the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols;
 - ii. Draw their attention to their obligations under the Hague Convention and its two Protocols, as appropriate;
 - iii. If one or more States are not party to the Hague Convention and its two Protocols, draw their attention to customary international humanitarian law protecting cultural property;
 - iv. List cultural sites to protect:
 - Cross-check the World Heritage List, List of World Heritage in Danger, the Memory of the World Register, the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection established by the Second Protocol, and tentative lists of cultural property both under the World Heritage Convention and the Second Protocol (as appropriate);
 - Immovable cultural property identified by the distinctive emblem of the Hague Convention;
 - Include information, where appropriate, about refuges intended to shelter movable cultural property in the event of armed conflict.
 - v. Urge and encourage parties to ensure all appropriate measures are taken to respect cultural heritage;
 - vi. Refer to relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and decisions of governing bodies of regional agencies (as appropriate);
 - vii. Follow-up as appropriate on the initial letter with the relevant national authorities.
- b. Consider dispatching personal representative(s) of the Director-General to the warring parties to ensure the protection of cultural property (in conformity with previous practice during the Iraq-Iran conflict and during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia);
- c. Contacts will be established with intergovernmental organizations in case the operations are conducted under their direct command or responsibility.

2. Establish contacts between the Director-General and the UN Secretary-General

Draft a letter from the Director-General to the UN Secretary-General:

- a. Informing him of the letters sent to the warring parties;
- b. Encouraging him to ensure that a reference to the protection of cultural property is inserted into any possible future UN Security Council resolutions.
- c. Requesting including a mention of the need to protect cultural property in the mandate of peace-keeping missions.

3. Establish contact with intergovernmental organizations for the provision of aid and assistance

Contact the intergovernmental organizations (e.g. the African Union, the European Union, NATO) involved in crisis and conflict management operations.

4. Public relations campaign

Issue press release(s) on behalf of the Director-General:

- a. Description of conflict;

- b. Reference the above-mentioned letters sent to warring parties;
- c. List the cultural property in danger.
- d. Draw attention to the following Articles and texts, as applicable:
 - i. 1954 Hague Convention
Article 4 (Respect for Cultural Property) and propose UNESCO's assistance as appropriate under Article 23 (Assistance of UNESCO)
 - ii. Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention
Articles 6 (Respect for Cultural Property), 12 (Immunity of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection) and propose UNESCO's assistance as appropriate under Article 33 (Assistance of UNESCO)
 - iii. Refer to relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and decisions of governing bodies of regional agencies (as appropriate)

5. Establish contacts with the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations:

- a. Such organizations could include: ICA, ICCROM, ICOM, ICOMOS, and IFLA. They might be able to help in gathering and disseminating information, awareness-raising, and providing expert advice on restoring cultural property;
- b. Ascertain whether it is possible for the Committee to assist with:
 - i. Provision of International Assistance under the terms of the Second Protocol;
 - ii. The granting of provisional enhanced protection on an emergency basis.

6. Provision of Assistance

- a. Dispatch of an evaluation mission as soon as the conditions allow for it and provision of experts in the field of cultural property conservation and preservation;
- b. Update of national inventories of cultural property;
- c. Training of security guards, review of security measures and proposals for their improvement.