



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



The Protection of the
Underwater Cultural Heritage

**STATUTES OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
ADVISORY BODY TO THE MEETING
OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER
CULTURAL HERITAGE**

*As adopted in the first session of the Meeting of States
Parties to the Convention on 26/27 March 2009 in
Paris.*

STATUTES OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY BODY

Article 1 - Functions

a) The Advisory Body

- (i) shall appropriately assist the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in questions of a scientific or technical nature regarding the implementation of the 'Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage', as referred to in Article 33 of the Convention (hereinafter "the Rules");
- (ii) may be consulted for the elaboration, in consultation with the Bureau of the Meeting of States Parties, of draft Operational Guidelines directly related to the Rules;
- (iii) shall give guidance in questions directly related to Rules in the framework of the practical application of the State cooperation mechanism contained in the Convention (Articles 8 to 13).

b) The Advisory Body shall propose to the Meeting of States Parties standards of and means to promote best practice in underwater cultural heritage sites protection and materials conservation by:

- (i) making technical and scientific recommendations in relation to the Rules to the Meeting of States Parties for discussion and adoption;
- (ii) identifying and monitoring practical common and emerging issues in underwater cultural heritage sites protection and materials conservation;
- (iii) identifying means of improving/developing best practices with regard to material and site conservation;

- (iv) proposing the organization of workshops and seminars on specific technical issues.
- c) Upon decision by the Meeting of States Parties, or by delegation by its Bureau, the Advisory Body may provide scientific and technical advice to States Parties on the implementation of the Rules through:
 - (i) missions to the requesting States Parties;
 - (ii) presentations during the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;
- d) The Advisory Body shall report on its activities at each Meeting of States Parties
- e) The Advisory Body shall consult and collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) having activities related to the scope of the Convention, namely ICUCH, as well as other competent NGOs accredited by the Meeting of States Parties.

Article 2 - Membership

- a) The Advisory Body shall be composed of twelve Members. The Meeting of Parties may increase this number to up to twenty four depending on the number of States Parties. They shall have a scientific, professional and ethical background at the national and/or international level, in particular, in the field of underwater archaeology, international law, materials science (metallurgy, archaeo-biology, geology), and conservation of underwater cultural heritage sites and/or archaeological underwater artefacts.
- b) The members of the Advisory Body shall work impartially and in compliance with the principles of the Convention.

Article 3 - Nomination and Election

- a) Members of the Advisory Body are elected by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in conformity with Rules 22 to 25 of its Rules of Procedure.
- b) The Advisory Body shall elect its Chairperson and its Vice-Chairperson(s).

Article 4 - Meetings

- a) The Director-General shall convene a session of the Advisory Body once a year. In special circumstances, he/she may convene another session if funds are available. The Director-General shall establish the agenda for the sessions of the Advisory Body after consultation with the Chairpersons of the Meeting of States Parties and the Advisory Body.

- b) In addition to members, experts or representatives of organizations, whose duties and qualifications make them suitable for assisting the Advisory Body, may be invited by it to address a meeting of the Advisory Body.

Article 5 - Secretariat

- a) The Director-General shall appoint a member of the UNESCO Secretariat to represent him/her on the Advisory Body, without a right to vote.
- b) The Secretariat of the Advisory Body is ensured by the UNESCO Secretariat.

Article 6 - Recommendations

- a) Recommendations of the Advisory Body are adopted by consensus, or, if no consensus emerges, by majority vote of the members present at a meeting.
- b) The sessions of the Advisory Body shall be held with a majority of its members being present.

Article 7 - Funding

- a) States Parties should endeavour to provide appropriate funding of the Advisory Body. UNESCO shall make all reasonable efforts to identify funding from regular and extra budgetary sources.
- b) Only the members of the Advisory Body from developing countries and countries in transition may benefit from financial assistance in order to participate to the meetings of the Advisory Body. Whenever possible, the members of the Advisory Body should work electronically.

Article 8 - Amendments

The Statutes of the Advisory Body may be amended by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention.