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de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE  
HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954 FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL  
PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII**

**12 December 2011, 3 – 6 p.m.; 13 December 2011, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**STRATEGY FOR ENCOURAGING RATIFICATION  
OF THE SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY  
IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

1. The Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict entered into force on 9 March 2004. As of 27 October 2011, 60 States have become party to this Protocol. By way of comparison, as of the same date, 123 States have become party to the 1954 Hague Convention, and of these, 100 have become party to its 1954 (First) Protocol.
2. To ensure better protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, it is essential that as many High Contracting Parties as possible become bound by the Second Protocol and subsequently implement it in their national legislation. However, there is a striking geographic imbalance within the States that have become party to the Second Protocol. Of the 60 States party, and in accordance with the grouping of Member States for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board, 12 of the 27 States in Group I have become party (comprising 44.5% of Group I); 18 of the 25 States in Group II have become party (72% of Group II); 17 of the 33 States in Group III have become party (51.5% of Group III); 2 of the 44 States in Group IV have become party (a mere 4.5% of Group IV); 4 of the 46 States in Group V(a) have become party (a mere 8.7% of Group V(a)); and 7 of the 18 States in Group V(b) have become party (38.9% of Group V(b)).
3. The annex to this document includes a table that compares the state of the ratification of the Second Protocol, the 1954 Convention, and its First (1954) Protocol, in accordance with the grouping of Member States for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board.
4. The annexed table highlights the discrepancies within the geographical representation of States that have become party to these instruments, particularly the Second Protocol. While almost half of the States in Groups I, II, III, and, to a lesser extent, V(b) have ratified all three instruments, the vast majority of States in Groups IV and V(a) have not. Based on the hard data reflected in the table, Asia and Pacific as well as the Africa region are severely underrepresented in terms of ratification.
5. In order to remedy this situation, the Secretariat has taken the following actions:
  - regularly updating the status of ratifications of the Second Protocol as well as the advantages of being party to this agreement. This information is available at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/armedconflict>;
  - posting on the Secretariat's website official translations of the Second Protocol in national languages other than Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish;
  - publication of an information kit on the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols, with focus on the main tenets of those instruments, customary international law on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and a model instrument of ratification or accession. This kit is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, and Spanish (the Russian version is being prepared);
  - publication of an article-by-article commentary on the 1954 Hague Convention (available in English, French, Russian and Spanish);
  - publication of an article-by-article commentary on the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention (available in English; the French version is being prepared);
  - establishing contacts with those High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention from Africa that are not yet party to the Second Protocol to encourage them to ratify this agreement;
  - active participation by the Secretariat in meetings and workshops organized by outside organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross;

- organizing meetings of the Secretariat with the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO.
6. In order to further increase the ratification of the Second Protocol, it is proposed that the following action plan be implemented from 2011 to 2015:
- (a) Priority-setting: Focus the ratification strategy on underrepresented grouping of States, notably those from Groups IV and V(a), as well as global and regional military powers;
  - (b) Increased collaboration with UNESCO Member States and, in particular, National Commissions to disseminate the information kit among the general public and target groups as well as to encourage awareness-raising workshops and activities on the regional and sub-regional levels;
  - (c) Encouraging Parties and non-Parties to translate the Second Protocol into their national languages and other languages with a view to facilitating the ratification process;
  - (d) The compilation of a list of best practices by Parties regarding the national implementation of the Second Protocol;
  - (e) Collaboration with the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to optimize the visibility of the Second Protocol and to raise awareness among the general public and concerned target groups;
  - (f) Establish a process by which the Parties, UNESCO, and civil society work together to ensure the successful ratification of the Second Protocol;
  - (g) Encourage the active involvement of focal points.
7. In order to facilitate the realization of this ratification strategy, it is proposed that the related activities be coordinated among the interested parties in the following manner:

The Parties will:

- encourage the development of national committees of the Blue Shield on the national level;
- exchange at the national, subregional and regional levels, together with their National Commissions and focal points for sharing information about the Second Protocol, measures designed to encourage ratifications at the sub-regional and regional levels;
- interact within the United Nations and the relevant regional organizations (e.g. NATO, the African Union), as appropriate, with a view to encouraging ratification and promotion of the Second Protocol;
- promote the benefits of the Second Protocol in international forums;
- communicate the results of their initiatives to the Secretariat of the Second Protocol.

UNESCO will:

- through its Culture Sector, prioritize awareness-raising activities in UNESCO Member States that are not party to the Second Protocol, especially in the underrepresented sub-regions and regions, and will ensure close and active cooperation between the Secretariat of the Second Protocol and Field offices in order to facilitate and harmonize the implementation of the ratification strategy;
- through the Second Protocol Secretariat, in conjunction with Field Offices, continue to develop informational tools to address the needs that arise in the course of the implementation of the ratification strategy;
- submit an update on the implementation of the ratification strategy to the Fifth Meeting of the Parties in 2013.

8. Expected results: by 31 December 2015, 15 to 20 additional ratifications, particularly in the underrepresented sub-regions and regions.
9. A report on the ratification process shall be presented to the Fifth Meeting of the Parties in 2013. In addition, an information session could be held prior to that Meeting, to which Parties and non-Parties would be invited.

## ANNEX

**Status of ratification according to the grouping of Member States  
for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board**

| <b>Group I<sup>1</sup></b>                              |                        |                      |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Member States</b>                                    | <b>1954 Convention</b> | <b>1954 Protocol</b> | <b>Second Protocol</b> |
| Andorra                                                 | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Austria                                                 | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Belgium                                                 | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Canada                                                  | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Cyprus                                                  | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Denmark                                                 | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Finland                                                 | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| France                                                  | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Germany                                                 | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Greece                                                  | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Iceland                                                 | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Ireland                                                 | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Israel                                                  | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Italy                                                   | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Luxembourg                                              | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Malta                                                   | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Monaco                                                  | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Netherlands                                             | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Norway                                                  | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Portugal                                                | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| San Marino                                              | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Spain                                                   | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Sweden                                                  | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Switzerland                                             | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Turkey                                                  | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| United Kingdom of Great<br>Britain and Northern Ireland | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| United States of America                                | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| <b>TOTAL :</b>                                          | <b>27</b>              | <b>22</b>            | <b>21</b>              |

| <b>Group II</b>        |                        |                      |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Member States</b>   | <b>1954 Convention</b> | <b>1954 Protocol</b> | <b>Second Protocol</b> |
| Albania                | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Armenia                | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Azerbaijan             | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Belarus                | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | X                      | X                    | X                      |

<sup>1</sup> The Holy See and Liechtenstein are not voting members of UNESCO, and therefore they have not been included in the list, although both States have acceded to the 1954 Hague Convention and its First Protocol (1954).

|                                              |           |           |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Bulgaria                                     | X         | X         | X         |
| Croatia                                      | X         | X         | X         |
| Czech Republic                               | X         | X         | X         |
| Estonia                                      | X         | X         | X         |
| Georgia                                      | X         | X         | X         |
| Hungary                                      | X         | X         | X         |
| Latvia                                       | X         | X         | -         |
| Lithuania                                    | X         | X         | X         |
| Montenegro                                   | X         | X         | X         |
| Poland                                       | X         | X         | -         |
| Republic of Moldova                          | X         | X         | -         |
| Romania                                      | X         | X         | X         |
| Russian Federation                           | X         | X         | -         |
| Serbia                                       | X         | X         | X         |
| Slovakia                                     | X         | X         | X         |
| Slovenia                                     | X         | X         | X         |
| Tajikistan                                   | X         | X         | X         |
| the former Yugoslav<br>Republic of Macedonia | X         | X         | X         |
| Ukraine                                      | X         | X         | -         |
| Uzbekistan                                   | X         | -         | -         |
| <b>TOTAL :</b>                               | <b>25</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>18</b> |

| <b>Group III</b>                 |                        |                      |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Member States</b>             | <b>1954 Convention</b> | <b>1954 Protocol</b> | <b>Second Protocol</b> |
| Antigua and Barbuda              | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Argentina                        | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Bahamas                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Barbados                         | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Belize                           | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Brazil                           | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Chile                            | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Colombia                         | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Costa Rica                       | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Cuba                             | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Dominica                         | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Dominican Republic               | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Ecuador                          | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| El Salvador                      | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Grenada                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Guatemala                        | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Guyana                           | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Haiti                            | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Honduras                         | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Jamaica                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |

|                                    |           |           |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Mexico                             | X         | X         | X         |
| Nicaragua                          | X         | X         | X         |
| Panama                             | X         | X         | X         |
| Paraguay                           | X         | X         | X         |
| Peru                               | X         | X         | X         |
| Saint Lucia                        | -         | -         | -         |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis              | -         | -         | -         |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines   | -         | -         | -         |
| Suriname                           | -         | -         | -         |
| Trinidad and Tobago                | -         | -         | -         |
| Uruguay                            | X         | X         | X         |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | X         | -         | -         |
| <b>TOTAL :</b>                     | <b>33</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>18</b> |

| <b>Group IV</b>                       |                        |                      |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Member States</b>                  | <b>1954 Convention</b> | <b>1954 Protocol</b> | <b>Second Protocol</b> |
| Afghanistan                           | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Australia                             | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Bangladesh                            | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Bhutan                                | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Brunei Darussalam                     | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Cambodia                              | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| China                                 | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Cook Islands                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Fiji                                  | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| India                                 | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Indonesia                             | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of             | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Japan                                 | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Kazakhstan                            | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Kiribati                              | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Kyrgyzstan                            | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic      | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Malaysia                              | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Maldives                              | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Marshall Islands                      | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Micronesia, (Federated States of)     | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Mongolia                              | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Myanmar                               | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Nauru                                 | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Nepal                                 | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| New Zealand                           | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Niue                                  | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Pakistan                              | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Palau                                 | -                      | -                    | -                      |

|                   |           |           |           |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Papua New Guinea  | -         | -         | -         |
| Philippines       | -         | -         | -         |
| Republic of Korea | -         | -         | -         |
| Samoa             | -         | -         | -         |
| Singapore         | -         | -         | -         |
| Solomon Islands   | -         | -         | -         |
| Sri Lanka         | X         | -         | -         |
| Thailand          | X         | X         | -         |
| Timor-Leste       | -         | -         | -         |
| Tonga             | -         | -         | -         |
| Turkmenistan      | -         | -         | -         |
| Tuvalu            | -         | -         | -         |
| Vanuatu           | -         | -         | -         |
| Viet Nam          | -         | -         | -         |
| <b>TOTAL :</b>    | <b>44</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>12</b> |
|                   |           | <b>2</b>  |           |

| <b>Group V(a)</b>                |                        |                      |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Member States</b>             | <b>1954 Convention</b> | <b>1954 Protocol</b> | <b>Second Protocol</b> |
| Angola                           | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Benin                            | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Botswana                         | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Burkina Faso                     | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Burundi                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Cameroon                         | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Cape Verde                       | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Central African Republic         | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Chad                             | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Comoros                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Congo                            | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Côte d'Ivoire                    | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Djibouti                         | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Equatorial Guinea                | X                      | -                    | X                      |
| Eritrea                          | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Ethiopia                         | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Gabon                            | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Gambia                           | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Ghana                            | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Guinea                           | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Guinea-Bissau                    | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Kenya                            | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Lesotho                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Liberia                          | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Madagascar                       | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Malawi                           | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Mali                             | X                      | X                    | -                      |



|                             |           |           |          |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Mauritius                   | X         | -         | -        |
| Mozambique                  | -         | -         | -        |
| Namibia                     | -         | -         | -        |
| Niger                       | X         | X         | X        |
| Nigeria                     | X         | X         | X        |
| Rwanda                      | X         | -         | -        |
| Sao Tome and Principe       | -         | -         | -        |
| Senegal                     | X         | X         | -        |
| Seychelles                  | X         | -         | -        |
| Sierra Leone                | -         | -         | -        |
| Somalia                     | -         | -         | -        |
| South Africa                | X         | -         | -        |
| Swaziland                   | -         | -         | -        |
| Togo                        | -         | -         | -        |
| Uganda                      | -         | -         | -        |
| United Republic of Tanzania | X         | -         | -        |
| Zambia                      | -         | -         | -        |
| Zimbabwe                    | X         | -         | -        |
| <b>TOTAL :</b>              | <b>46</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>4</b> |

| <b>Group V(b)</b>    |                        |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Member States</b> | <b>1954 Convention</b> | <b>1954 Protocol</b> | <b>Second Protocol</b> |
| Algeria              | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Bahrain              | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Egypt                | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Iraq                 | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Jordan               | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Kuwait               | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Lebanon              | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Libya                | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Mauritania           | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Morocco              | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Oman                 | X                      | -                    | X                      |
| Qatar                | X                      | -                    | X                      |
| Saudi Arabia         | X                      | X                    | X                      |
| Sudan                | X                      | -                    | -                      |
| Syrian Arab Republic | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| Tunisia              | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| United Arab Emirates | -                      | -                    | -                      |
| Yemen                | X                      | X                    | -                      |
| <b>TOTAL :</b>       | <b>15</b>              | <b>12</b>            | <b>7</b>               |