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

SIXTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
8 (p.m.) and 9 December 2015**

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda:

**Report on the implementation of the strategy for encouraging ratifications of
the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of
Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**

The information document aims to present the progress in ratifications of the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 since the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Second Protocol (Paris, December 2013). In doing so, it successively describes the status of ratifications between January 2014 and December 2015, as well as the actions undertaken by the Secretariat to encourage these.

I. STATUS – DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION BETWEEN JANUARY 2014 AND DECEMBER 2015

1. The fifth meeting of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol (UNESCO Headquarters, 16-17 December 2013) took note of the Secretariat's report on the implementation of the strategy for encouraging ratifications of the 1999 Second Protocol, and invited the States that are not yet Party to the Second Protocol to become so as soon as possible¹.
2. To date², 126 States are Party to the Hague Convention of 1954, 103 to the 1954 First Protocol and 68 to the 1999 Second Protocol. The Hague Convention of 1954 and its Two Protocols, besides the fact that they have not been universally ratified, constitute standard-setting instruments that have recorded a low growth rate in terms of ratification over the past two years. As such, since January 2014, the number of States to deposit their instruments of ratification [of], acceptance [of], approval [of] or accession [to]:
 - the Hague Convention of 1954 has increased by 0%;
 - the 1954 First Protocol has increased by 0%; and,
 - the 1999 Second Protocol has increased by 1.5%.
3. Since January 2014, three new States have become Party to the 1999 Second Protocol (Morocco³, New Zealand⁴, and South Africa⁵), thus bringing the number of States Parties to 68. As a comparison, in December 2013, the number of States Parties to the Second Protocol stood at 66. Over two years, growth in terms of ratification stood at 3.03%.
4. Beyond the low growth rates in terms of ratification, the geographical distribution of the States Parties also remains unequal. As such, based on the UNESCO electoral groups, the 68 States Party to the Second Protocol are currently distributed as follows:
 - 12 States out of the 27 in Group I (i.e. 44.5%);
 - 19 States out of the 25 in Group II (i.e. 76%);
 - 17 States out of the 33 in Group III (i.e. 51.5%);
 - 4 States out of the 44 in Group IV (i.e. 9%);
 - 7 States out of the 47 in Group V(a) (i.e. 14.89%); and,
 - 9 States out of the 19 in Group V(b) (i.e. 47.36%).
5. The Appendix to this document presents a table showing the status of ratifications of the the Hague Convention of 1954, the 1954 First Protocol and the 1999 Second Protocol according to UNESCO electoral groups. The Asia-Pacific and Africa groups are particularly poorly represented among the Parties. Within the framework of the strategy for encouraging ratifications, particular attention should therefore be paid to States from these groups.

¹ Recommendations adopted by the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Second Protocol of 1999. Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002304/230489F.pdf> (accessed 14 August 2015)

² 7 October 2015

³ Morocco deposited its instrument of ratification on 5 December 2013 and the Second Protocol came into force on 5 March 2014.

⁴ New Zealand deposited its instrument of accession on 23 October 2013 and the Second Protocol came into force on 23 January 2014.

⁵ South Africa deposited its instrument of accession on 11 February 2015 and the Second Protocol came into force on 11 May 2015.

II. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN JANUARY 2014 AND DECEMBER 2015 TO ENCOURAGE RATIFICATION

6. Since January 2014, the Secretariat has insistently reiterated the importance of the ratification of these standard-setting instruments in its communication with UNESCO Member States not Party to the Hague Convention of 1954 and its Two Protocols (1954 and 1999). The argument set out consists of outlining these conventional instruments, highlighting the interest they offer in terms of protection, in both time of peace and during armed conflict.
7. Furthermore, given the situation of cultural heritage in some of the world's regions, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (hereinafter "the Committee") has, for the first time in history, adopted a Decision following its ninth meeting (UNESCO Headquarters, 18-19 December 2014) calling the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, among others, to ratify the Second Protocol as soon as possible and to submit their requests for the granting of enhanced protection on an urgent basis. This call has been reiterated on two occasions by the Chairperson of the Committee in Statements made on behalf of the Committee, in accordance with Decision 9.COM 3 of the Committee, dated 20 March 2015 and 21 May 2015⁶.
8. Finally, the Secretariat encouraged several UNESCO Member States to become Party to the Second Protocol, and, in particular, to work closely with the competent authorities in China and France to do so.
9. Within the framework of contacts established with the competent French authorities with a view to encouraging France's accession to the Second Protocol, a member of the Secretariat was heard by the French National Commission on Human Rights in order to present the interests in accession to this standard-setting instrument. Following this work, the Commission unanimously adopted an opinion recommending, among other things, France's accession to the Second Protocol⁷.

⁶ The Statements mentioned are available via Internet links:

Decision adopted by the Committee during its 9th meeting:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/images/9_COM_Declaration_FR.pdf (accessed 14 August 2015);

Chairperson's Statement on behalf of the Committee of 20 March 2015:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/armed-conflict-and-heritage/the-committee/chairpersons-statement-on-behalf-of-the-committee/> (accessed 14 August 2015); and,

Chairperson's Statement on behalf of the Committee of 21 May 2015:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Statement_FINAL_FR.pdf (accessed 14 August 2015).

⁷ With the authorisation of the French National Commission on Human Rights, the opinion was published online on the "Best Practices" page of the website of the Second Protocol, and is available at the following address: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/culture/themes/armed-conflict-and-heritage/best-practices/france/> (accessed 14 August 2015).

Annex⁸

Group I ⁹			
Member States	1954 Convention	1954 Protocol	Second Protocol
Andorra	-	-	-
Austria	25/03/1964	25/03/1964	01/03/2002
Belgium	16/09/1960	16/09/1960	13/10/2010
Canada	11/12/1988	29/11/2005	29/11/2005
Cyprus	09/09/1964	09/09/1964	16/05/2001
Denmark	26/03/2003	26/03/2003	-
Finland	16/09/1994	16/09/1994	27/08/2004
France	07/06/1957	07/06/1957	-
Germany	11/08/1967	11/08/1967	25/11/2009
Greece	09/02/1981	09/02/1981	20/04/2005
Iceland	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	-
Israel	03/10/1957	01/04/1958	-
Italy	09/05/1958	09/05/1958	10/07/2009
Luxembourg	29/09/1961	29/09/1961	30/06/2005
Malta	-	-	-
Monaco	10/12/1957	10/12/1957	-
Netherlands	14/10/1958	14/10/1958	30/01/2007
Norway	19/09/1961	19/09/1961	-

⁸ The dates in this table correspond to the dates on which the States deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or notification of succession. The Second Protocol entered into force on 9 March 2004, pursuant to Article 43.1. Thereafter, pursuant to Article 43.2, the Second Protocol shall enter into force, for each Party three months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession; except in cases of notification of succession where the entry into force occurs on the date on which the successor State assumes responsibility for conducting the international relations of the territory of the predecessor State.

⁹ 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).

Portugal	04/08/2000	18/02/2005	-
San Marino	09/02/1956	09/02/1956	-
Spain	07/07/1960	26/06/1992	06/07/2001
Sweden	22/01/1985	22/01/1985	-
Switzerland	15/05/1962	15/05/1962	09/07/2004
Turkey	15/12/1965	15/12/1965	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	-	-	-
United States of America	13/03/2009	-	-
Total 27	22	21	12

Group II			
Member States	1954 Convention	1954 Protocol	Second Protocol
Albania	20/12/1960	20/12/1960	-
Armenia	05/09/1993	05/09/1993	18/05/2006
Azerbaijan	20/09/1993	20/09/1993	17/04/2001
Belarus	07/05/1957	07/05/1957	13/12/2000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12/07/1993	12/07/1993	22/05/2009
Bulgaria	07/08/1956	09/10/1958	14/06/2000
Croatia	06/07/1992	06/07/1992	08/02/2006
Czech Republic	26/03/1993	26/03/1993	08/06/2007
Estonia	04/04/1995	17/01/2005	17/01/2005
Georgia	04/11/1992	04/11/1992	13/09/2010
Hungary	17/05/1956	16/08/1956	26/10/2005
Latvia	19/12/2003	19/12/2003	-
Lithuania	27/07/1998	27/07/1998	13/03/2002
Montenegro	26/04/2007	26/04/2007	26/04/2007

Poland	06/08/1956	06/08/1956	03/01/2012
Republic of Moldova	09/12/1999	09/12/1999	-
Romania	21/03/1958	21/03/1958	07/08/2006
Russian Federation	04/01/1957	04/01/1957	-
Serbia	11/09/2001	11/09/2001	02/09/2002
Slovakia	31/03/1993	31/03/1993	11/02/2004
Slovenia	05/11/1992	05/11/1992	13/04/2004
Tajikistan	28/08/1992	28/08/1992	21/02/2006
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	30/04/1997	30/04/1997	19/04/2002
Ukraine	06/02/1957	06/02/1957	-
Uzbekistan	21/02/1996	-	-
Total 25	25	24	19

Group III			
Member States	1954 Convention	1954 Protocol	Second Protocol
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-
Argentina	22/03/1989	10/05/2007	07/01/2002
Bahamas	-	-	-
Barbados	09/04/2002	02/10/2008	02/10/2008
Belize	-	-	-
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	17/11/2004	-	-
Brazil	12/09/1958	12/09/1958	23/09/2005
Chile	11/09/2008	11/09/2008	11/09/2008
Colombia	18/06/1998	18/06/1998	24/11/2010
Costa Rica	03/06/1998	03/06/1998	09/12/2003
Cuba	26/11/1957	26/11/1957	-
Dominica	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	05/01/1960	21/03/2002	03/03/2009
Ecuador	02/10/1956	08/02/1961	02/08/2004
El Salvador	19/07/2001	27/03/2002	27/03/2002
Grenada	-	-	-
Guatemala	02/10/1985	19/05/1994	04/02/2005
Guyana	-	-	-
Haiti	-	-	-
Honduras	25/10/2002	25/10/2002	26/01/2003
Jamaica	-	-	-
Mexico	07/05/1956	07/05/1956	07/10/2003
Nicaragua	25/11/1959	25/11/1959	01/06/2001
Panama	17/07/1962	08/03/2001	08/03/2001
Paraguay	09/11/2004	09/11/2004	09/11/2004
Peru	21/07/1989	21/07/1989	24/05/2005
Saint Lucia	-	-	-

Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-
Suriname	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	-
Uruguay	24/09/1999	24/09/1999	03/01/2007
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	09/05/2005	-	-
Total 33	20	18	17

Group IV			
Member States	1954 Convention	1954 Protocol	Second Protocol
Afghanistan	-	-	-
Australia	19/09/1984	-	-
Bangladesh	23/06/2006	23/06/2006	
Bhutan	-	-	-
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	
Cambodia	04/04/1962	04/04/1962	17/09/2013 ¹⁰
China	05/01/2000	05/01/2000	-
Cook Islands	-	-	-
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	-	-	-
Fiji	-	-	-
India	16/06/1958	16/06/1958	-
Indonesia	10/01/1967	26/07/1967	-
Iran, Islamic Republic of	22/06/1959	22/06/1959	24/05/2005
Japan	10/09/2007	10/09/2007	10/09/2007
Kazakhstan	14/03/1997	14/03/1997	-
Kiribati	-	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	03/07/1995	-	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	-	-
Malaysia	12/12/1960	12/12/1960	-
Maldives	-	-	-
Marshall Islands	-	-	-
Micronesia, (Federated States of)	-	-	-
Mongolia	04/11/1964	-	-
Myanmar	10/02/1956	10/02/1956	-

¹⁰ Pursuant to Article 43.2 of the Second Protocol, Cambodia will become party to the Second Protocol on 17 December 2013.

Nauru	-	-	-
Nepal	-	-	-
New Zealand	24/07/2008	17/10/2013 ¹¹	23/10/2013 ¹²
Niue	-	-	-
Pakistan	27/03/1959	27/03/1959	-
Palau	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-
Philippines	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	-	-	-
Samoa	-	-	-
Singapore	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	11/05/2004	-	-
Thailand	02/05/1958	02/05/1958	-
Timor-Leste	-	-	-
Tonga	-	-	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-
Tuvalu	-	-	-
Vanuatu	-	-	-
Viet Nam	-	-	-
Total 44	17	13	4

Group V(a)			
Member States	1954 Convention	1954 Protocol	Second Protocol
Angola	07/02/2012	-	-
Benin	17/04/2012	17/04/2012	17/04/2012
Botswana	03/01/2002	-	-

¹¹ Pursuant to Article III 10 (b) of the Protocol, New Zealand will become party to the First Protocol on 17 January 2014.

¹² Pursuant to Article 43.2 of the Second Protocol, New Zealand will become party to the Second Protocol on 23 January 2013.

Burkina Faso	18/12/1969	04/02/1987	-
Burundi	-	-	-
Cameroon	12/10/1961	12/10/1961	-
Cape Verde	-	-	-
Central African Republic	-	-	-
Chad	17/06/2008	-	-
Comoros	-	-	-
Congo	-	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	24/01/1980	-	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	18/04/1961	18/04/1961	-
Djibouti	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	19/11/2003	-	19/11/2003
Eritrea	06/08/2004	-	-
Ethiopia	-	-	-
Gabon	04/12/1961	04/12/1961	29/08/2003
Gambia	-	-	-
Ghana	25/07/1960	25/07/1960	-
Guinea	20/09/1960	11/12/1961	-
Guinea-Bissau	-	-	-
Kenya	-	-	-
Lesotho	-	-	-
Liberia	-	-	-
Madagascar	03/11/1961	03/11/1961	-
Malawi	-	-	-
Mali	18/05/1961	18/05/1961	15/11/2012
Mauritius	22/09/2006	-	-
Mozambique	-	-	-
Namibia	-	-	-

Niger	06/12/1976	06/12/1976	16/06/2006
Nigeria	05/06/1961	05/06/1961	21/10/2005
Rwanda	28/12/2000	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-
Senegal	17/06/1987	17/06/1987	-
Seychelles	08/10/2003	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-
Somalia	-	-	-
South Africa	18/12/2003	-	11/02/2015
South Sudan	-	-	-
Swaziland	-	-	-
Togo	-	-	-
Uganda	-	-	-
United Republic of Tanzania	23/09/1971	-	-
Zambia	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	09/06/1998	-	-
Total 47	24	12	7

Group V(b)			
Member States	1954 Convention	1954 Protocol	Second Protocol
Algeria	-	-	-
Bahrain	26/08/2008	26/08/2008	26/08/2008
Egypt	17/08/1955	17/08/1955	03/08/2005
Iraq	21/12/1967	21/12/1967	-
Jordan	02/10/1957	02/10/1957	05/05/2009
Kuwait	06/06/1969	17/02/1970	-
Lebanon	01/06/1960	01/06/1960	-
Libya	19/11/1957	19/11/1957	20/07/2001
Mauritania	-	-	-
Morocco	30/08/1968	30/08/1968	05/12/2013

Oman	26/10/1977	-	16/05/2011
Palestine	22/03/2012	22/03/2012	22/03/2012
Qatar	31/07/1973	-	04/09/2000
Saudi Arabia	20/01/1971	06/11/2007	06/11/2007
Sudan	23/07/1970	-	-
Syrian Arab Republic	06/03/1958	06/03/1958	-
Tunisia	28/01/1981	28/01/1981	-
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-
Yemen	06/02/1970	06/02/1970	-
Total 19	16	13	9
TOTAL 195	124	101	68