



“Year of National Economic Reactivation”

**Vice-Ministry of Cultural Heritage**

**Cultural Cooperation Directorate**

**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1954 HAGUE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT AND THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS TWO PROTOCOLS (1954 and 1999)**

**Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**

**Military measures (Article 7)**

The National Police, responsible for ensuring protection of public property, maintains a permanent surveillance and control service for cultural property in cooperation with the civilian authorities entrusted with safeguarding such property, through such specialist entities as the tourist police and the community police.

**Granting of special protection (Article 8)**

The Dominican Republic will seek entry in the “International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection” of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo, world cultural heritage.

**Dissemination of the Convention (Article 25)**

By signing the Agreement between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Armed Forces, the former institution undertook to train and qualify military personnel in Dominican culture and cultural heritage by means of courses organized for the purpose; while the latter entity undertook to participate in educational campaigns for knowledge, valuation, dissemination, and prevention of the misuse of and trafficking in cultural property, through the preparation of printed matter and of periodical reports on the monitoring of the Convention. In this respect, the Ministry of Culture last year began training and qualifying courses for personnel engaged in protecting the historic centre of Santo Domingo.

Pursuant to Decree No. 236-01 of 14 February 2001, the Institute of Human Dignity of the National Police (DIH) incorporates the content of the Convention in the training of the personnel attached to the institution. Likewise the National Police, through the Graduate School of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (EGDHDIH), a department of the Ministry of the Armed Forces specializing in human rights and international humanitarian law, serves as the Ministry’s advisory body in these matters. In this respect, the National Police has requested the Ministry of Culture to coordinate through the Institute of Human Dignity one-day training sessions for civilian, police and military personnel for the dissemination and execution of the Hague Convention.

In its instructional programmes for military and civilian personnel, the EGDHDIH includes subjects related to the Convention. The contents, included in the instructional and training programmes for the military, are designed for each command level of the Ministry of the Armed Forces. In the human rights and international humanitarian law special subject, the programme includes two degree papers relating to the execution of the Convention throughout the country and particularly in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo.

### **Sanctions (Article 28)**

Review is under way of the draft bill for the protection, safeguarding and promotion of the cultural heritage of the nation, with the incorporation of special sanctions for cases of damage to the Dominican cultural heritage. Likewise under review are the Regulations of the National Museum Network; and the Archaeological Research Regulations are being drawn up.

Offences in regard to cultural property are statutorily prevented and prosecuted through the National Police and the Ministry of the Armed Forces.

<b>Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict</b>
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### **Safeguarding of cultural property (Article 5)**

The inventories of six museums coming under the General Directorate of Museums have been updated. Three inventories of as many museums are being updated.

The participation of the Dominican Republic in the Virtual Museum of Latin America and the Caribbean will favour the protection of movable cultural property given its public access. In this respect, on the basis of international and intergovernmental contacts an information network has been formed for the protection of such property. This network facilitates knowledge and prevention regarding activities in the field of Ibero-American movable cultural heritage.

With respect to the planning of emergency measures for the protection of cultural heritage, the General Directorate of Museums has begun the process of drawing up plans for risk prevention, mitigation and response for each department. In the matter of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo, the National Directorate of Monumental Heritage coordinates the Emergency Committee for the historic centre together with other public and private institutions. This committee prepares the General Risk Management Plan and the sectoral plans for particular events. Likewise, the Cultural Heritage Vice-Ministry set up the World Heritage Committee, which monitors the UNESCO conventions.

### **Enhanced protection (Article 10)**

The Colonial City of Santo Domingo meets the conditions established in the Convention for enhanced protection:

- (a) It is cultural heritage of the greatest importance for humanity;
- (b) It is protected by adequate domestic legal and administrative measures recognizing its exceptional cultural and historic value and ensuring the highest level of protection;
- (c) It is not used for military purposes or to shield military sites, and it will not be so used.

**Dissemination (Article 30)**

Through a permanent training programme, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Armed Forces promote knowledge, appreciation and respect of cultural property among personnel responsible for protecting the historic centre. Courses have also been provided for building community awareness regarding protection of the Dominican cultural heritage in peacetime.