



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 modified at the fifth session of the Meeting of States  
Parties to the Convention on 28/29 April 2015 in Paris.*

---

**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) as well as a Rapporteur. The latter shall elaborate the reports of the meetings and of the electronic work of the Advisory Body in cooperation with the Secretariat and submit these reports for adoption to the members of the Advisory Body. Following their adoption the reports shall be submitted timely by the Rapporteur to the Meeting of States Parties.

### **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 – State Assistance and Missions**

- a) Upon receipt of the decision of the Meeting of States Parties or its Bureau that the Advisory Body may provide advice to a State Party, the Secretariat shall inform the Chairperson about the decision, the details of the request of the State Party concerned and the financing available to answer the request. Usually the State Party requesting the assistance shall cover its cost
- b) The Chairperson in consultation with the Secretariat and the requesting State Party will then propose the measures of action that shall be taken and circulate the request and the suggestions to the members of the Advisory Body. In the case that a mission shall be sent to the requesting State Party, the Chairperson proposes also the designation of a head of mission to the requesting State Party. The Advisory Body members shall decide on the actions to be taken.
- c) Missions shall be supported by the Secretariat of the Advisory Body and the UNESCO Field Office responsible for the requesting State Party. The designated head of mission shall report in a timely manner and in writing on the results of the mission, if possible by electronic means, to the Chairperson and the Secretariat.
- d) Upon adoption of the report by the Advisory Body members it shall be submitted to the requesting State Party and published on the Advisory Body website, in case this State Party has not expressly requested confidentiality.

#### **Article 6 - 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 7 - 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 8 - 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 9 - Amendments**

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