



The Protection of the  
Underwater Cultural Heritage

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**UNESCO**

**CONVENTION ON THE  
PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY BODY**

**Third Meeting  
19 April 2012, Paris, UNESCO HQ**

**Report, Recommendations and Resolutions**

The third meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (hereinafter '**the Advisory Body**') for the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (hereinafter '**the Convention**') took place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on **19 April 2012**. It was attended by 10 of its 12 members, namely: Ms Dolores Elkin (Argentina), Mr Jasen Mesic (Croatia), Ms Annalisa Zarattini (Italy), Mr Vladas Zulkus (Lithuania), Ms Pilar Luna Erreguerena (Mexico) *by teleconference*, Augustus Babajide Ajibola (Nigeria), Mr Constantin Chera (Romania), Mr Andrej Gaspari (Slovenia), Ms Carmen García Rivera (Spain) and Ms Ouafa Ben Slimane (Tunisia). Mr Hugo Eliecer Bonilla Mendoza (Panama) and Mr Ovidio Juan Ortega Pereyra (Cuba) were not able to attend. Nevertheless, three observers participated from Panama. Also present were observers from 18 States and representatives from ten accredited NGOs, namely ACUA, ADRAMAR, AIMA, ARKAEOS, CIE, DEGUWA, JNAPC, NAS, SHA and ICUCH. Only INA, a US based non-governmental organization, was not able to send a delegate. UNESCO representatives served as the Secretariat. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish was also available as the result of a generous contribution from Spain. As no Rules of Procedure have been adopted for the Advisory Body, the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of States Parties were applied *mutatis mutandis*.

## **I. Opening, Election of the Bureau and Adoption of the Agenda**

### *Item 1 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/1)*

The session was opened on 19 April 2012 at 10 am with a welcome speech by Mr Alain Godonou, Director of the Division of Thematic Programmes for Diversity, Development and Dialogue. He stressed the rising importance of the Advisory Body and the need to ensure its visibility, recognition and the dissemination of its recommendations on the long-term. He also pointed out that the NGOs present and temporarily accredited to collaborate with the Body were a precious asset in making the 2001 Convention function. He then extended his wishes for the success and productivity of the debates.

Ms Ulrike Guérin of the Secretariat provided information on the presence of the Advisory Body members and recalled the prior bureaux of the Advisory Body. On proposal of Constantin Chera, former chairperson, the Advisory Body then elected by **Resolution 1/STAB 3** as its new Chairperson Dolores Elkin from Argentina and as its new Vice-Chairperson Augustus Babajide Ajibola from Nigeria. It also adopted the agenda, however introducing two new items, a report by the Secretariat on the results of the work of the Advisory Body and a discussion of the financing of activities directed at submerged archaeological sites by the de-accession of artefacts from that site.

## **II. Functioning of the Advisory Body and Collaboration with accredited NGOs**

### *Item 2 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/2)*

The newly elected Chairperson, Dolores Elkin, took the floor and thanked the Advisory Body for its confidence and trust, reminding it of its tasks. She asked the Secretariat to give a short report of the decisions of the Meeting of States Parties concerning the Advisory Body, the

actions of the Secretariat in implementation of these decisions and the temporary accreditation of NGOs.

Following this report, which was made available in writing as *UCH/12/3.STAB/220/Inf.1*, Ms Elkin opened the discussions on Item 2 of the Agenda, the functioning of the Advisory Body. There were mainly two issues to be discussed here, namely the question of how to increase the recognition and visibility of the Advisory Body and the implementation of the recommendations made, and the discussion regarding cooperation with accredited NGO.

All the recommendations the Advisory Body made and the related resolutions of the Meeting of States Parties had been circulated to all Member States of UNESCO through their Permanent Delegations to UNESCO. They had also been made available on the website of the 2001 Convention. It appeared however advisable to discuss how the Body's work could have more impact and achieve greater visibility. The Advisory Body decided therefore to work more closely and using electronic means like emails or teleconferencing and to submit and discuss agenda items for discussion well in advance of its meetings. It also decided to increase its visibility through the UNESCO website by making more information available on its work and its members, for instance by publishing their CVs and their pictures. Closer cooperation with media services and educational TV stations was also to be sought with the help of the Secretariat. The Advisory Body also decided to become more visible by supporting conferences and presentations in its own name. Singled out were here especially the World Archaeology Congress and similar congresses. In regard to the educational tasks of the Advisory Body, it was decided to verify, endorse and contribute to educational or child-related material on underwater cultural heritage. The Advisory Body then adopted unanimously **Resolution 2 / STAB 3** on the above issues.

The Advisory Body discussed in the following how to regulate the cooperation with the accredited NGOs. The Advisory Body members stressed the importance of NGO accreditations. It was considered important to collaborate with them as closely as possible, as these NGOs are working directly in the field and with national authorities worldwide. They may therefore be some of the best means to make the Body's recommendations heard and to make the ethical principles and guidelines of the Convention known. NGOs were also recognized for their very useful insight in the practice of underwater archaeology in the field, especially concerning issues regarding best practices and fostering the development of underwater archaeology at the national, regional and international level.

In accordance with **Resolution 3 / STAB 3**, the Advisory Body members invited the accredited NGOs to submit proposals on the contributions they may wish to provide to its work. They also invited the NGOs to raise awareness of the 2001 Convention, to contribute information concerning specific discussed agenda items, monitor practical and emerging issues and to propose related topics for consideration by the Advisory Body and to identify best practices in underwater archaeology for consideration by the Advisory Body.

The Advisory Body also asked the Secretariat to facilitate communication between NGOs and the Advisory Body and to provide information on minimum standards for the accreditation of NGOs to the Advisory Body so that a greater number of NGOs can be identified for cooperation.

### III. Identifying Common and Emerging Issues of Underwater Archaeology

#### *Item 3 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/3)*

The Chairperson recalled that the Advisory Body should propose to the Meeting of States Parties standards and means to promote best practices in underwater cultural heritage sites protection and materials conservation by identifying and monitoring common practical and emerging issues. In December 2011 at the UNESCO Scientific Colloquium in Brussels, several emerging issues of underwater archaeological research were outlined. Among them were sea routes and their research potential, prehistoric site research, and the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I in 2014.

After extensive discussions on these issues, the Advisory Body recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to encourage work and cooperation on inland water related underwater archaeological research, sea routes and submerged prehistoric landscapes and sites.

- The research on **inland water sites** was singled out as important to the understanding of the history of landlocked States. It was stressed that their scientific value should not be underestimated.
- **Sea routes** were to be valued because they generated research on intercultural exchanges between regions and cultures. Sites like that of the Maritime Silk Road significantly complement research on land-based travel and exchange routes. They included immensely important sites, as was shown in the on-going excavation of the Maritime Silk Road wreck *Nanhai No. 1* in a new museum on Hailing Island, China.
- Regarding **submerged prehistoric landscapes and sites**, it was stressed that it was necessary and recommendable to promote their safeguarding in conjunction with the implementation and promotion of instruments protecting the environment. Their extension and the difficulty to address their research and safeguarding in a comprehensive way were underlined.

Special attention was paid to the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. This conflict had resulted in immense human losses and its naval component left a great number of submerged historic sites.

- The possibility of providing the States until the year 2014 with comprehensive information on this heritage was briefly discussed. However, it appeared that there were too many sites and comprehensive research would require much more time,
- The Advisory Body agreed unanimously that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of WW I, whose many wrecks of ships and aircrafts sunken in 1914 or thereafter would begin to fall under the protection of the 2001 Convention from 2014 onwards, should be appropriately commemorated. Special attention was drawn to the importance of global, international and humanitarian aspects of the naval battles of WWI. Many thousands of persons lost their life with the sinking and destruction of the concerned ships or vehicles. They should be remembered appropriately.
- Attention was also given to the endangered situations of the related sites created by natural and human factors. Indeed the mostly metallic wrecks were affected by corrosion, the build-up of 'rusticles' (rust-like formations caused by bacteria and resembling icicles) and interaction with marine life. They were also the object of extensive pillage and commercial exploitation enterprises.

- Consequently, the Advisory Body recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to aim to organize an international commemorative event in the year 2014 and to identify appropriate funds. The Body did also recommend involving States not yet party to the 2001 Convention and other international organizations concerned. It was furthermore recommended to gather information and material related to the submerged heritage from World War I for the education of the public and for the media.
- It was decided to continue the discussion of this issue by electronic means and by circulating proposals, especially regarding the creation of a Steering Committee. The Advisory Body then adopted **Recommendation 4 / STAB 3** on the above issues.

#### **IV. Education and Awareness-raising**

##### *Item 4 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/4)*

In its second meeting in April 2011, the Advisory Body had expressed its strong interest in the issues of youth education and awareness-raising. The Secretariat took the floor briefly to inform the members of the Body about an intended cooperation with the producers of the Geronimo Stilton books and on an education kit on underwater cultural heritage elaborated in Portugal. It also informed that the short cartoons on the UNESCO underwater cultural heritage website had been viewed by more than 25.000 users since their posting the preceding year. The dissemination of the full TV episodes elaborated by the partner company Moonscoop was of course much higher and therefore even more successful.

The Advisory Body discussed how to reinforce youth education and recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to introduce topics on underwater cultural heritage in educative material and curricula of primary, secondary and higher level schools and educational institutions. It also indicated that it would be advisable to develop additional short films and cartoons for children to be posted on the underwater cultural heritage Kids Page of UNESCO's website. For this purpose, all States Parties could be called upon to contribute appropriate material to further improve and enhance this page and to disseminate this page for educational purposes. It also recommended developing cooperation with appropriate children publication producers and to circulate and exchange exhibitions on underwater cultural heritage, targeting the public at large or children. The Advisory Body then adopted **Recommendation 6 / STAB 3**.

#### **V. Virtual Access Initiatives concerning Underwater Cultural Heritage**

##### *Item 5 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/5)*

Many current initiatives strive to ensure virtual access to the ocean or/and underwater cultural heritage sites. Several are also undertaking to map virtually accessible shipwreck sites or other submerged heritage. The Advisory Body had already drawn attention to the importance of these initiatives. In response, the Meeting of States Parties asked the Secretariat to collect information. The Advisory Body discussed how to proceed with the creation of a full-fledged project and if cooperation with Google should be undertaken.

First, the Advisory Body recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to facilitate the provision of information on virtual access initiatives to the Secretariat in order to ensure the completeness of the underwater cultural heritage collections. It also asked the Secretariat to make such initiatives available in one common web space or project on the UNESCO underwater cultural heritage website, which would generate synergies. It encouraged the accredited NGOs, which are in many cases working on such virtual access initiatives, to contribute to this project or website and to assist in the quality and ethical control of the participating initiatives. Finally it recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to encourage States Parties to create special websites on underwater cultural heritage and link them to UNESCO website. It then adopted **Recommendation 8 / STAB 3**.

## **VI. Licensing for Scientific Divers**

### *Item 6 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/6)*

In its previous session, the Advisory Body expressed interest in seeking ways to harmonize the licensing for scientific divers including legal, health and safety requirements. Currently these requirements vary from country to country and the resulting differences hinder international cooperation, training exchanges and research cooperation. This issue was discussed in depth. It appeared that even at the national level the issue of licensing constitutes a problem. The observer for France informed the Body that 65 per cent of all persons that had until 2011 worked in the domain of underwater archaeology in France were no longer licensed to do so. The Advisory Body member from Italy, Annalisa Zarattini, added that it was currently almost impossible to obtain a license for professional archaeological diving in Italy.

The discussions revealed that it was very difficult to find a solution. This resulted in part from the differences of the archaeological reality in the various regions and security requirements, which depended on the roughness of the waters, the depth at which the sites are located etc. The debates considered the possibilities of a mutual recognition of licenses, the harmonization of licenses and the drawing up of a UNESCO model license.

In **Resolution 9 / STAB 3**, the Advisory Body then recommended to the Meeting of the States Parties to encourage States Parties to identify common minimum basic standards for archaeological divers, to harmonize the training of diving for archaeological purposes and to encourage the States to mutually recognize national diving qualifications for archaeological purposes.

## **VII. Guidelines for the Inventory of Underwater Cultural Heritage**

### *Item 7 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/7)*

A number of countries and organizations are engaged in inventorying their underwater cultural heritage. In its first meeting, the Advisory Body adopted Recommendation 5 / MAB 1 paragraph 3.g encouraging the elaboration of guidelines for the establishment of national inventories in order to ensure the inter-changeability of national databases in the long term and to call on ICUCH to assist in this exercise. In response to this recommendation, the Meeting of States Parties requested the Advisory Body by Resolution 6 / MSP 3 to present to it for consideration at its upcoming fourth session Draft Guidelines for the Establishment of National Inventories in

order to ensure the inter-changeability of national databases in the long run. A first draft of a model inventory sheet was elaborated by the Secretariat.

The Advisory Body members considered this proposal. They noted that it was necessary to further define the terms used, such as 'close' or 'far' from the coast could be interpreted very differently, etc. The Advisory Body decided to undertake an electronic exchange of comments on the draft inventory form proposed by the Secretariat and to send those comments to the Secretariat for the composition of the revised draft version. A special effort was to be made to define the terms used in the draft model.

While the draft inventory model proposed by the Secretariat was a sheet, which could be transformed into an electronic form, it was then also felt necessary to go beyond that. The Body therefore decided to add more extensive guidelines for national inventories to the model, in particular concerning the electronic storage of data. The Advisory Body adopted **Resolution 10 / STAB 3** on this issue.

### **VIII. Financing of Archaeological Excavations by the De-accession of Artefacts**

An item that was introduced into the agenda on the morning of the meeting raised the question whether activities directed at underwater archaeological sites financed through the de-accessioning of artefacts from the concerned site would be in harmony with the Rules annexed to the 2001 Convention.

#### *a. Scope of the mandate of the Advisory Body*

The United States, present as an observer at the meeting, wanted clarification on whether the response to this question fell within the mandate of the Advisory Body. Another question was whether such an item could be brought to the attention of the Body by one of the accredited NGOs, as was the case here.

The Secretariat responded that according to Article 1 (e) of its Statutes

*'the Advisory Body shall consult and collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) having activities related to the scope of the Convention'.*

Consultation and collaboration could be understood to include not only questions posed by the Advisory Body to the accredited NGO, but also an active contribution of the NGO to the Advisory Body's work in drawing its attention to emerging issues in the field of underwater archaeology.

The Secretariat informed furthermore that according to Article 1 (a) (ii)

*'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 [...] identifying and monitoring practical common and emerging issues in underwater cultural heritage sites protection and materials conservation [...].'*

This could be interpreted that the Advisory Body could and should address emerging issues, for example the financing of activities directed at such sites, and recommend a relevant best

practice in the light of the Rules annexed to the Convention. It was therefore accepted that the Advisory Body had the right and the duty to address the question that was put up for discussion, i.e. the financing of activities directed at an archaeological site through a pre-excavation agreement for the transfer of artefacts by means of de-accession in lieu of payment for archaeological services.

*b. On the issue of pre-excavation agreements for the transfer of artefacts by means of de-accession in lieu of payment for archaeological services*

In its following discussions as well as in additional electronic discussions in line with Article 7 (b) of its Statutes the Advisory Body drew from its experiences as well as from that of the accredited NGO. It gave the following clarifications:

De-accessioning is the formal process of the removal of an object from a collection, register, catalogue or database based upon a number of sound considerations. Disposal is the physical removal of the object from the collection. De-accession and disposal are practices used in museums and other institutions which host natural or cultural materials. One of the reasons why materials can be de-accessioned and disposed of is that they are duplicates. De-accession and disposal normally take place after a thorough analysis, assessment and consultation.

The members concluded that the practice of de-accessioning could be abused to justify a pre-planned over-recovery and trade of archaeological materials for the payment of professional recovery services employed on that same or other archaeological site. This could typically result in a commercial exploitation scheme on the ground that certain materials would be identified as duplicates, which is for instance often the case for coins and ceramics. In the end result sites would be excavated more for their monetary value rather than for their scientific interest. From the outset items could be recovered for no other reason than for sale and they would be commercialized for the payment of the salvor. This would be inconsistent with the intent and provisions of the 2001 Convention.

While the Advisory Body recognized that the de-accessioning of material from a museum or other entity might in some cases not be inconsistent with the Rules annexed to the Convention, without issuing any view on that issue, it was of the opinion that a breach of the Rules would occur when the recovery of material from an archaeological site

- was made with the intention of transferring artefacts in lieu of payment for archaeological services;
- was made without the goal of contributing considerably to the protection, knowledge about or enhancement of underwater cultural heritage; and /or
- resulted in the unnecessary disturbance of the concerned archaeological remains and their context; and /or
- would effectively result in the commercialization of underwater cultural heritage; and /or
- when an activity on a site would be undertaken without first securing the necessary sound funding base for the activity .

More specifically, the Advisory Body considered that:



*On Rule 1 of the Annex:* A pre-planned de-accessioning of 'surplus' material from a submerged archaeological site would mean that Rule 1 of the Annex, which regulates that protection in situ should be considered as first option, is not respected. Recoveries would be made with the intention that artefacts would be transferred in lieu of payment for archaeological services while there was no intention to contribute through it considerably to knowledge, enhancement or protection. Even if there was a threat to the site by other causes, like trawling or looting, it was not justifiable to foresee from the outset to recover material for the financing of an activity (instead for instance to look for protective measures or other solutions).

*On Rule 2 of the Annex:* The Advisory Body members also opined that as soon as the artefacts from the excavated site were effectively and in whichever way used in lieu of payment to compensate a party to a pre-excavation agreement for archaeological or other services rendered, this was equivalent to trade in artefacts, so that the activity becomes a commercial one and violates Rule 2. This was not to be considered as a correct deposition of underwater cultural heritage, as mentioned in Rule 2, recovered in conformity with the Convention.

*On Rule 3 and 4 of the Annex:* A pre-excavation agreement for the transfer of artefacts in lieu of payment for archaeological services by means of de-accessioning would also mean the disturbance of an archaeological site with the pre-set goal of recovering items beyond any scientific need in order to finance the activity. This would typically result in a situation that would violate Rule 3, according to which activities directed at underwater cultural heritage shall not adversely affect the heritage more than is necessary for the objectives of the project. According to Rule 4 activities directed at underwater cultural heritage must also use non-destructive techniques and survey methods in preference to the recovery of objects. If excavation or recovery is necessary for the purpose of scientific studies or for the ultimate protection of the underwater cultural heritage, the methods and techniques used must be as non-destructive as possible and contribute to the preservation of the remains. This does not cover their de-accessioning pursuant to a pre-excavation agreement to serve as payment for archaeological or other services.

*On Rule 17 of the Annex:* Moreover, according to Rule 17 an adequate funding base shall be assured before undertaking any activity. This should however not include any sale of artefacts which is not in conformity with Rule 2. If no such funding is assured, the activity should not be undertaken.

The Advisory Body unanimously adopted **Recommendation 5 / STAB 3** on the financing of archaeological excavations by de-accession of the artefacts recommending to the Meeting of States Parties to consider that the de-accessioning of the artefacts from such a concerned site was not consistent with the Rules annexed to the 2001 Convention.

## **IX. Replacement of Advisory Body Members**

The Advisory Body then discussed the issue of the absence of some of its members and problems related to their ability to fulfil their work. In each of the Advisory Body meetings, one or more members of the Advisory Body were unable to attend. This was either due to professional

obligations (on-going archaeological excavations etc.) or the fact that the concerned person had changed professional positions and was therefore not fully representing his or her State any more. The Advisory Body thus recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to take measures allowing the replacement of one of its members with an equally qualified person without holding new elections in specific situations by **Recommendation 11 / STAB 3**.

#### **X. Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Body**

##### *Item 8 (UCH/12/3.STAB/220/8)*

According to Article 4 (a) of the Statutes of the Advisory Body, the Meeting of the Advisory Body takes place at least once every year. It was therefore the last agenda item of the meeting to recommend when the next meeting should take place. It seemed preferable to choose a date close to the Meeting of States Parties in order to facilitate covering the travel of the Advisory Body members, who are often also members of the delegations of their countries to the Meeting of States Parties. Additional attention was drawn to the fact that the term of office of several members ends on 14 April 2013. New elections will therefore have to take place. By 14 April some of the members of the Body will have completed their mandate and elections would only take place in the next Meeting of States Parties. It was therefore recommended to hold the meeting after the fourth Meeting of States Parties. The Advisory Body therefore requested the Director-General by **Resolution 12 / STAB 3** to convene the fourth meeting of the Advisory Body in April 2013 in Paris immediately following the fourth Meeting of the State Parties.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **RESOLUTION 1 / STAB 3 – Bureau and Agenda**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body to the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,

1. Elects Mrs Dolores Elkin (Argentina) Chairperson of its third meeting;
2. Elects Mr Augustus Babajide Ajibola (Nigeria) Vice-Chairperson of its third meeting;
3. Having considered document UCH/12/3.STAB/220/1;
4. Adopts the Agenda included in the above-mentioned document, as amended.

### **RESOLUTION 2 / STAB 3 – Functioning and Visibility of the work of the Advisory Body**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

1. Having considered document UCH/12/3.STAB/220/2;
2. Decides
  - a. to work in a more frequent manner and using electronic means; and
  - b. to submit agenda items for discussion well in advance of any meeting.
3. Considers it important to increase its visibility; and
4. Decides therefore
  - a. to increase its visibility through the UNESCO Website by making more information available on the Advisory Body and its work;
  - b. to seek closer cooperation with media services and educational TV stations;
  - c. to provide support to conferences and to make presentations in the name of the Advisory Body at different scientific meetings and organizations;
  - d. to seek to endorse and contribute to educational or child-related material on underwater cultural heritage.

### **RESOLUTION 3 / STAB 3 – Cooperation with and Consultation of NGO**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

2. Invites the accredited NGOs to submit proposals on the contributions they may wish to provide to its work;

3. Considers that the work of the accredited NGOs should promote and provide visibility to the 2001 Convention and the Advisory Body and help in the implementation of the Convention;
4. Invites the NGOs
  - a. to raise awareness of the 2001 Convention, its guidelines and ethical principles as well as of the recommendations of the Advisory Body;
  - b. to contribute information concerning specific discussed agenda items;
  - c. to monitor practical and emerging issues and to propose topics related to them for consideration by the Advisory Body;
  - d. to identify best practices in underwater archaeology for consideration of the Advisory Body;
5. Invites the Secretariat
  - a. to facilitate the fluent communication between NGOs and the Advisory Body; and
  - b. to provide information on minimum standards for the accreditation of NGOs to the Advisory Body so that a greater number of NGOs can be identified for cooperation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 4 / STAB 3 - Common and Emerging Issues of Underwater Archaeology**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

1. Having considered document UCH/12/3.STAB/220/3;
2. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to encourage work and cooperation on
  - a. Inland water related underwater archaeological research;
  - b. Sea routes;
  - c. Submerged prehistoric landscapes and sites, in particular in conjunction with the implementation and promotion of instruments protecting the environment;
3. Does in relation to the upcoming 100th anniversary of World War I,
  - a. draw special attention to its importance and global, international and humanitarian aspects;
  - b. call for attention to the endangered situation of the related sites created by natural and human causes;
  - c. recommend to the Meeting of States Parties to organize in an international effort a commemorative event in the year 2014;
  - d. recommend to identify appropriate funds for this and to gather related information and material;
  - e. recommend to also involve States not yet Parties to the 2001 Convention and other international organizations concerned.
4. Decides to continue the discussion of this issue by electronic means and to circulate proposals.

### **RECOMMENDATION 5 / STAB 3 - Financing of Archaeological Excavations by De-accession of the Artefacts**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

1. Identifies as one of the emerging issues concerning the protection of underwater cultural heritage the current discussion on a possible financing of archaeological services by means of de-accessioning of artefacts; and
2. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to consider that the financing of archaeological excavations by the process of the de-accessioning of the artefacts from the concerned site is not consistent with the Rules annexed to the 2001 Convention.

### **RECOMMENDATION 6 / STAB 3 - Education**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

1. Having considered document UCH/12/3.STAB/220/4;
2. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties
  - a. to introduce topics on underwater cultural heritage in educative material and curricula of primary, secondary and higher level schools and educational institutions;
  - b. to develop short films and cartoons for children for publication on the underwater cultural heritage Kids page of UNESCO;
  - c. to contribute any other appropriate material to this Kids page; and
  - d. to develop and facilitate cooperation with appropriate children publication producers.
3. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to circulate and exchange appropriate exhibitions on underwater cultural heritage.

### **RECOMMENDATION 7 / STAB 3 – Benefits of Protection**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

Recommends to the Meeting of the States Parties

- a. to take measures to demonstrate the public interest and utility of the protection of the underwater cultural heritage;

- b. to collect information on recommendable models and statistical information through the States Parties and the Secretariat;
- c. to propose models for managing underwater cultural heritage in a way that brings benefits for the sustainable economic development of regions; and
- d. to increase the positive image of underwater archaeology and the involvement of the public in the awareness, the protection and enjoyment of the underwater cultural heritage.

### **RECOMMENDATION 8 / STAB 3 - Virtual Access**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body

1. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to facilitate the provision of information on virtual access initiatives to the Secretariat;
2. Asks the Secretariat to make such initiatives available in one common web space or project on the UNESCO underwater cultural heritage website in line with Resolution 6 / MSP 3 issued by the Meeting of States Parties;
3. Encourages accredited NGOs to contribute to this project or website and to assist in the quality and ethical control of the proposed initiatives; and
4. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to encourage States Parties to create special websites on underwater cultural heritage and connect them to UNESCO underwater cultural heritage website.

### **RESOLUTION 9 / STAB 3 - Standards for Archaeological Divers**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

Recommends to the Meeting of the States Parties

- a. to encourage States Parties to identify common minimum basic standards for archaeological divers;
- b. to harmonize the training of diving for archaeological purposes; and
- c. to encourage States Parties to mutually recognize national diving qualifications for archaeological purposes.

### **RESOLUTION 10 / STAB 3 – Inventory of Underwater Cultural Heritage**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

1. Decides to undertake an electronic exchange of comments of its members on the draft inventory form proposed by the Secretariat and to send those comments to the Secretariat for the composition of the final version;

2. Decides to make efforts to define the terms used in the draft form; and
3. Decides to add to the form guidelines for national inventories, in particular concerning the electronic storage of data.

### **RECOMMENDATION 11 / STAB 3 – Replacement of Advisory Body Members**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to take measures allowing the replacement of one of its members with an equally qualified person without new elections in specific situations.

### **RESOLUTION 12 / STAB 3 - Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Body**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body,

1. Having considered document UCH/12/3.STAB/220/8;
2. Asks the Director-General to convene the fourth meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body in April 2013 in Paris following immediately the fourth Meeting of the State Parties.