



The Protection of the
Underwater Cultural Heritage

FIRST SESSION OF THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

26/27 March 2009, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
Room II

CLT/CIH/MCO/2009/ME/90

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Discussion of the establishment of Operational Guidelines

Decision required: paragraph 4

1. The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage does not expressly foresee the establishment of Operational Guidelines, as this question was left to the discretion of the Meeting of States Parties. Many States have expressed the opinion that the elaboration of such Guidelines might contribute to a better understanding and more effective implementation of the Convention.
2. Key users of such Operational Guidelines would be the national authorities of States Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention, a potential Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, professionals, site managers and stakeholders working in the area of underwater cultural heritage protection.
3. Operational Guidelines could:
 - a. clarify certain definitions in the Convention, without giving however a legal interpretation;
 - b. give guidance to the State cooperation and consultation mechanism contained in Articles 8 to 13 of the Convention;
 - c. regulate the funding of measures undertaken under the Convention, as for instance in the application of measures taken by a group of consulting States and enforced by a coordinating State;
 - d. give guidance on the appointment of coordinating States in the Area;

- e. elaborate on other issues of State cooperation (training in underwater archaeology, transfer of technology, exchange of knowledge etc.);
- f. define the role of partners in the implementations process of the Convention; and
- g. provide guidance in interpreting standards set by the Convention in aspects of the operational protection of underwater cultural heritage.

4. The Meeting of States Parties may therefore wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Meeting of States Parties,

- 1. *Having examined document CLT/CIH/MCO/2009/ME/90,*
- 2. *Requests the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau of the Meeting and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, a draft of Operational Guidelines for the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, giving priority attention to, among others, _____; and to submit at the second session of the Meeting of States Parties the results of their work for consideration and approval.*