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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
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**CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE**

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

**Third session  
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV  
13 – 14 April 2011**

**Information Document**

**Report of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body**

**Report of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body to the Meeting of States Parties  
to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)**

*(according to Article 1(d) of its Statutes)*

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body was established in the first session of the Meeting of States Parties by Resolution 5/MSP 1 and its first eleven members elected in the second session by Resolution 7/MSP 2.

The first meeting of the Advisory Body took place at the Spanish National Museum of Maritime Archaeology (ARQUA) in Cartagena, on 14 and 15 June 2010 upon invitation of the Spanish government. Its results and the final report of the meeting are annexed to this document.

Following article 7 (b) of the Statutes of the Advisory Body and Resolution 6 / 1 MAB, the Advisory Body worked also electronically by the use of emails and applying the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of State Parties *mutatis mutandis*. Since its first meeting on 14 and 15 June 2010, the Advisory thus discussed the Code of Ethics for Diving on Submerged Archaeological Sites and adopted Recommendation 7 / 1 MAB recommending this Code of Ethics for adoption to the Meeting of States Parties (text proposed in Document *UCH/11/3.MSP/220/5*).

**ANNEX 1**

**Final Report of the First Session of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body**

The first session of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body was attended by 9 of its members, namely Francisco Alves (Portugal), Milton Eric Branford (Saint Lucia), Pilar Luna Erreguerena (Mexico), Andrej Gaspari (Slovenia), Hugo Eliecer Bonilla Mendoza (Panama), Jasen Mesic (Croatia), Carmen García Rivera (Spain), Serhiy Voronov (Ukraine) and Vladas Zulkus (Lithuania). Hossein Tofighian (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Kalin Stoynev Porozhanov (Bulgaria) were not able to attend. Nevertheless observers participated from Iran and Bulgaria. Present were furthermore observers from three other States Parties to the Convention and from 16 States not party as well as the president of the ICOMOS International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH), a NGO, accredited to cooperate with the Advisory Body according to

Article 1 (e) of its Statutes. UNESCO provided the Secretariat. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in English and French, as well as exceptionally in Spanish, due to a generous contribution from Spain. As no Rules of Procedure had yet been adopted for the Advisory Body the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of States Parties were applied *mutatis mutandis*.

## **I. Opening Ceremony**

The session was opened on Monday, 14 June 2010 at 10 a.m. by Jasen Mesic, Chairperson of the Meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage ("the Convention"). He greeted the Advisory Body expressing his trust in the professional valour and experience of its members, reminding them of their task to guide the development of underwater archaeology, foster the application of best practices and improve the safeguarding of submerged heritage. He pointed out that State Parties rely on the Body's recommendations and encouraged it to do all in its might to gain worldwide respect and a spotless reputation. He also stressed that the Body should be a constantly operating organ and continue to work electronically after the meeting.

Christian Manhart, Chief of the Section of Museums and Cultural Objects at UNESCO, greeted the Meeting in the Name of the Director-General of UNESCO. He thanked the Spanish authorities for their generous invitation and recalled the historical development of the Convention. He then evoked projects, like the recovery of the *Mary Rose*, the *Vasa* and the Roskilde wrecks, which allowed acquiring much technical and scientific knowledge, while he observed that nonetheless professional underwater archaeologists remain rare. In consequence the exchange of acquired knowledge was very important.

Carmen García Rivera, Member of the Advisory Body, welcomed the Advisory Body and the observers to the meeting in the name of Spain. She recalled the importance of the protection of underwater cultural heritage and the threats it is exposed to. She then stressed the importance of the 2001 Convention and briefly illustrated the latest developments in the protection of underwater cultural heritage in Spain.

## **II. Election of a Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting**

*(Item 1 of the Agenda, Document UCH/10/1.MAB/220/2)*

The Advisory Body elected by **Resolution 1/MAB 1 Carmen García Rivera** (Spain) as Chairperson and **Pilar Luna Erreguerena** (Mexico) as Vice-Chairperson. They were to remain in office until the next session of the Body, when a new Bureau will be elected. The newly elected Chairperson reminded the Advisory Body of its tasks and confirmed the presence of a quorum of the members. She informed that Prof. Thijs Maarleveld, scientific editor of the planned UNESCO manual on the Annex of the Convention, was invited in this function, but also as the president of **ICUCH**. All members of the Body agreed with his presence.

### **III. Adoption of the Agenda**

*(Item 2 of the Agenda, Document UCH/10/1.MAB/220/2)*

Ulrike Guérin, Secretary of the Convention and of the Advisory Body, introduced the provisional agenda of the meeting, prepared according to Article 4 (a) of the Statutes of the Advisory Body, and presented the working documents. The agenda was adopted unanimously by **Resolution 2 / MAB 1**.

### **IV. Requests from State Parties**

*(Item 3 of the Agenda, Document UCH/10/1.MAB/220/3)*

The Chairperson explained that a request for advice had been brought forward by Mexico, the **Chair of the Working Group of States Parties** currently considering the Draft Operational Guidelines for the 2001 Convention. Mexico posed the **question if a password protected Database should be created to send notifications** of discoveries or activities to UNESCO and to other States Parties in the frame of the State cooperation mechanism of Articles 8 – 13 of the Convention.

On request, the Secretariat explained the **State cooperation mechanism**, applying to waters beyond the territorial sea, as well as the proposed database. The Convention regulates that all States Parties should notify discoveries or planned activities concerning underwater cultural heritage located in the exclusive economic zone, on the continental shelf or in the Area. Mostly the notifications will be transferred via UNESCO, but it is not clarified by the Convention, in which way and how much information needs to be given. To set common regulations, the Secretariat had proposed an electronic system in the form of a password protected database to facilitate sending and receiving notifications, as well as their translation. Only competent authorities would

be able to access it, and it might eventually result in a world-wide inventory. The Secretariat stressed that the Convention requests notifications, not reports, and does not define the extent of information that needs to be given. A first draft form for a database had been attached to the first draft of Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention.

The Chairperson stressed the obligation of State Parties to respect the provisions of the Convention and to accordingly notify other State Parties of discoveries of and activities directed at underwater cultural heritage outside territorial waters.

A lively discussion ensued. The **scope of the information** to be given in a notification, especially concerning the position of sites, as well as the question of security and site identification were of particular concern. One member observed that the exchange of information was crucial for the protection of sites and that access to information was in favour of scientific research. Another stressed the importance of a network among archaeologists that allows professionals to directly interact and consult with each other, while it was felt that on a global level the identification of appropriate information receivers was not always evident. Attention was drawn to the plundering occurring in the Caribbean and Latin America and the need to protect information on the location or even of the pure existence of sites. Several members requested that the notification system should not demand the transfer of site-coordinates. Highlighted was furthermore that the danger of a leakage of information on the position of underwater heritage lies with who discovers the site. Not advised was the use of diplomatic notes as they involve many more persons than an electronic communication system and raise a higher security risk.

Several observers took the floor: France pointed to the sheer quantity of archaeological sites and the possible administrative effort caused by the demand for diplomatic notes, strongly advising the use of an electronic system. The Netherlands, supported by Jamaica and Bulgaria, suggested extending the system of notifications also to non State Parties or to at least involve States with a verifiable link to the concerned site.

The Secretariat clarified that the Convention does not request notifications from or to non-State parties. The Chairperson observed however that it was in the spirit of the Convention to cooperate with all States, and that it may be a moral obligation to each concerned State to contact countries that have an appropriate policy towards the underwater cultural heritage.

In the further course of the discussion it was decided that the use of an **electronic means of transmission for notifications was wished** as it functions easier and as there is not a sufficient budget available for translating diplomatic notes. It was however also felt that the term “electronic format” was more appropriate than “database”. It was accordingly recommended that a compact and succinct electronic format should be elaborated for consideration of the Meeting of States Parties, leaving it open to the States, which information they would wish to provide. The Chairperson remarked that it might be useful to include a reference to the type of activity that the notifying States would like to see carried out. The Advisory Body considered furthermore that a password protection and a log-in function ensure the security of this kind of electronic form collection and recommended that States Parties should have the choice how much information they want to give on the concerned sites.

As a result of this very fruitful discussion the Advisory Body unanimously adopted **Recommendation 3 / MAB 1**.

#### **V. Cooperation of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body with NGOs, IGOs, Congresses and other**

*(Item 4 of the Agenda, Document UCH/10/1.MAB/220/4)*

According to Article 1 (e) of its Statutes the Advisory Body should consult and collaborate with 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. The Meeting of States Parties had accordingly in its second session examined first **applications for accreditation** received by the Secretariat and set out in the Annex of document UCH/09/2.MSP/220/6. The Meeting of States Parties had decided by Resolution 6/MSP 2 not to accredit any organization until criteria for accreditation had been adopted in the Operational Guidelines of the Convention and invited the Advisory Body to provide its opinion on the background of the NGOs and Congresses which had applied (namely ACUA, AIMA, ADMAT, DEGUWA, JNAPC, NAS, SHA, ADRAMAR and ARKEOS).

The Body members observed that they needed full **documentation** to give an opinion on any of the applying entities, but first of all they needed to know which criteria they should follow. The question of the responsible entity for investigating the truthfulness of the documentation received was raised and it was made clear that the Secretariat does not have the means to fulfil this task.

ICUCH offered its assistance in checking the documentation, but made clear, that as an NGO it does not wish to be asked to comment on the accreditation of other NGO. The Chairperson pointed out that the responsibility for control lies with the Advisory Body and its members.

The Secretariat drew attention to the UNESCO directives for relations with NGOs, which were very helpful and which could be applied *mutatis mutandis* as well as UNESCO's directives for the use of UNESCO's logo. The Body then debated the specific documents the Secretariat should be requested to demand from the NGOs, especially their legal statutes, information on present and past activities, their membership and their members of governing organs. France observed however that the list of the members of governing organs may not always be representative. The importance of references supplied by national authorities was furthermore asserted by a member of the Advisory Body. The Advisory Body also discussed the procedure for accreditation and recommended that the NGOs should be monitored on a regular basis, and a procedure for the termination of relations should be foreseen.

Resulting from the discussion, the Chairperson supported by all members of the Advisory Body, suggested **not accrediting any NGO unless the criteria for accreditation have been approved** by the Meeting of States Parties. As criteria the Body recommended to apply *mutatis mutandis* the "Directives concerning UNESCO' relations with NGO", as approved by the General Conference at its 28th, 31st and 34th session and to request in addition that the concerned NGOs should have objectives, activities, statutes and by-laws that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and be engaged in activities and have competence, expertise and experience in safeguarding underwater cultural heritage. It also recommended a procedure for accreditation and the termination of accreditation. The Body further recommended that the Secretariat should register accreditation requests, present them to the Advisory Body and keep up-to-date and publicly accessible a list of the organizations accredited by the Meeting of States Parties.

The Body did for the moment not wish to recommend congresses for accreditation, as it was felt that the freedom of scientific discussion should not be limited by any control of communications made in the frame of a congress, even if this should mean to accept that contributions could not be fully in line with the principles of the Convention. It would therefore be better to not ask or encourage any congress to undergo any accreditation procedure or respect any fixed criteria.

The Body summarized these advices in **Recommendation 4 / MAB 1**.

## **VI. Promotion of Best Practise in the Field of Underwater Archaeology**

*(Item 5 of the Agenda, Document UCH/10/1.MAB/220/5)*

The Chairperson informed that according to Article 1 (b) of its Statutes the Advisory Body should 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: (a) making technical and scientific recommendations in relation to the Rules to the Meeting of States Parties for discussion and adoption; (b) identifying and monitoring practical common and emerging issues in underwater cultural heritage sites protection and materials conservation; (c) identifying means of improving/developing best practices with regard to material and site conservation; and (d) proposing the organization of workshops and seminars on specific technical issues. She then invited the Secretariat to **present current operational projects of UNESCO** in the field of underwater archaeology. The Secretariat accordingly introduced Information Document *UCH/10/1.MAB/220/Inf.1* that illustrates capacity-building activities undertaken by UNESCO, activities that have been undertaken to promote awareness-raising and the involvement of the public as well as activities that promote scientific studies and assistance.

The Secretariat reminded the Advisory Body that all activities are undertaken beyond its main task, which is to organize the Meetings of State Parties and of the Advisory Body and that the **resources are very limited**. Only one staff member was currently attributed to ensure the Secretariat of the Convention and of the Advisory Body as well as all operational activities in the frame of the Convention.

The Chair invited the experts implicated in UNESCO projects and present in the room to give further explanation. Martijn Manders (Netherlands), the coordinator of the **MACHU** project described the objectives of this mapping initiative pointing out that it has two complimentary tools, a GIS systems containing data for professionals with limited access, and a public interface CMS that provides the general public with historical background while not revealing sensitive information. The importance of public access and awareness raising projects was generally sustained by the Advisory Body members, while it decided not to single out initiatives for recommendation. The Chair then encouraged the Body to discuss how to foster underwater archaeology and best practice.



The importance of **fostering the adaptation of national legislation** was debated in particular with respect to the continuing plundering of archaeological sites and the lack of appropriate legislation in small-island States. France stressed the importance of simple and concise legislation and the Secretariat drew the attention of the Advisory Body and the observers to the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Law Database.

Several members of the Advisory Body stressed very strongly that States Parties need to implement Article 16 of the Convention, which obliges them to **prevent worldwide activities of their nationals that are in breach of the principles of the Convention** and that they should do so. Many such activities were going on in all regions of the world with the participation of nationals and vessels from States Parties and that the concerned States should therefore take appropriate action immediately.

Furthermore the Advisory Body discussed means to **improve national procedures for the authorization of interventions on archaeological sites**, and especially the expansion of these procedures to activities that only incidentally affect archaeological sites. It was stressed by all that these incidentally affecting activities, as for instance trawling, port works, mineral extraction and dredging are one of the main concerns for site protection. On this note it was also recommended that States Parties should oblige by national law all national authorities whose competencies include the sea- or riverbed to confidentially forward information on underwater cultural heritage found. Furthermore the need for a more extensive cooperation was stressed, especially also with the International Oceanographic Commission.

The issue of the **conservation and protection of shipwrecks from World War II** was raised by several members of the Advisory Body. Their monitoring and cleaning from ammunition or unexploded ordnance was stressed as important, it was however also observed that their historic importance is yet underestimated and an association of concerned States might be necessary.

It was moreover debated and recommended to elaborate **ethical standards for divers** in order to better involve the huge mass of divers. Especially the potential of the involvement of amateur divers was stressed by France, as they were many thousands.

Observing the strong need to better **share knowledge and build capacity**, the Advisory Body recommended fostering archaeological practice by granting assistance to States Parties in

capacity-building. The Solomon Islands congratulated the Secretariat in this regard on the workshop in Honiara in December 2009 and requested the establishment of more Category 2 Centres for capacity building.

The Advisory Body then discussed the **creation of guidelines for the establishment of national inventories**. Most members felt that inventorisation was one of the main tasks that States face currently and that a future inter-connection of the resulting national inventories would be advisable. They greeted the offer from ICUCH to assist in this task. It was however highlighted that as a first step national competent authorities needed to be established. One Advisory Body member took the floor to discourage the adoption of a recommendation to the Meeting of States Parties, to give assistance in the establishment of inventories. He observed that the task of inventorisation included a very heavy workload and could not be handled with the current very limited Secretariat of the Convention. He concurred however that this task was very important and needed to be addressed by the States at a national level. He advised also against the establishment of common guidelines for the same reasons, was however overruled by vote.

The Advisory Body decided **not to recommend the establishment of an international database of archaeologists and divers**, as it was generally felt that the inscriptions were not easily to control and sensitive information might be disseminated.

Finally and unanimously the Advisory Body members called to the Meeting of States Parties to request UNESCO to **reinforce the number of staff attributed to the Secretariat** of the Convention as well as to increase its budget.

**Recommendation 5 / MAB 1** summarized these recommendations.

## **VII. Date and Venue of the Second Meeting of the Advisory Body**

As last item the Advisory Body discussed the *modus operandi* of the electronic work and the dates and the place of its second meeting. It asked by **Recommendation 6 / MAB 1** the Director-General to convene its next session directly after the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Meeting of State Parties in Paris to benefit from the presence of many Body members in the Meeting and taking into account

that there were no funds available to cover the travel expenses of the Advisory Body members for the next sessions. The Secretariat proposed the creation of an email list administered by the Secretariat and accessible to all. This was accepted and members were accordingly encouraged to provide their email address and inform of any change of address.

It was agreed that the members of the Advisory Body shall respond to questions within the deadline set, whereas in the case of a vote, a response sent after the time limit shall be considered invalid. Moreover it was decided that resolutions and recommendations shall only be taken by electronic exchange if a majority of the Advisory Body members has voted on the concerned issue.

### **VIII. Closure of the Meeting**

The Chairperson then declared the meeting closed. She thanked the members of the Advisory Body and the observers for their work and greeted the achievements of the first meeting, which were widely applauded by the audience present. Particular gratefulness was expressed to Spain for its generous invitation and to the staff of the ARQUA museum for its dedication and efficiency.

## ANNEX 2

### **Resolutions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body**

#### **RESOLUTION 1 / MAB 1**

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 Carmen Garcia Rivera (Spain) Chairperson of its first meeting;
2. Elects Pilar Luna Erreguerena (Mexico) Vice-Chairperson of its first meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION 2 / MAB 1**

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

1. Having examined document UCH/10/1.MAB/220/2;
2. Adopts the Agenda included in this document.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 3 / MAB 1**

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

1. Having examined documents UCH/10/1.MAB/220/3 and UCH/09/2.MSP/220/5;
2. Recommends the creation of a UNESCO electronic form for the transfer of notifications in the framework of the State cooperation mechanism of the Convention;
3. Considers that the State cooperation mechanism of the Convention serves to facilitate the collaboration of States in case of danger to sites and in research projects. It needs therefore to be implemented in a simple and rapid way. An electronic form for the transmission of notifications seems the most appropriate tool, as it can be fed directly by national competent authorities (Art 22.1 of the Convention) with information and as it allows an automatic translation while only little time is lost for administrative delays.
4. Considers that a password protection and a log-in function ensure the security of the use of such electronic form;
5. Recommends that States Parties should have the choice how much information they want to give on the concerned sites.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 4 / MAB 1**

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

1. Having examined the documents UCH/10/1.MAB/220/4, UCH/09/2.MSP/220/6, UCH/09/2.MSP/220/INF.3 and UCH/10/1.MAB/220/INF.3;

2. Considering that the ICOMOS International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) is already listed in Article 1 (e) of the Statutes of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body and that it can be assumed that it does not need to apply for accreditation;
3. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to not accredit any NGO under Article 1 (e) of the Statutes of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body until accreditation criteria have been adopted;
4. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to adopt *mutatis mutandis* for accreditation under Article 1 (e) of the Statutes of the Advisory Body the criteria set by the “Directives concerning UNESCO’ relations with NGO”, as approved by the General Conference at its 28th, 31st and 34th session; and to request in addition that the concerned NGOs should
  - a. have objectives, activities, statutes and by-laws that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention;
  - b. be engaged in activities and have competence, expertise and experience in safeguarding underwater cultural heritage.
4. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to adopt the following procedure for accreditation:
  - a. The Secretariat should receive the requests from NGOs, demanding in particular
    - i. proof of their legal establishment,
    - ii. their legal statutes and by-laws,
    - iii. the details of their past and current activities,
    - iv. a list of the organisations’ members and their governing organs,
    - v. a register of their publications, as well as
    - vi. references by national authorities or international organisations;
  - b. The Secretariat should check the completeness of the requests and present them for consideration to the Advisory Body either during a meeting of the Body or in its electronic exchange;
  - c. The Advisory Body should evaluate the request based on the information provided to it by the Secretariat, any additionally available information, as well as on the expertise of its members;
  - d. The Advisory Body should submit the requests for accreditation together with its recommendation for decision to the Meeting of States Parties at each session of the Meeting, where a decision should be taken;
  - e. The Meeting should review already accredited bodies every four years, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Body as to maintaining or terminating relations with the entity in question, as well as the perspective of the body concerned;
  - f. The termination of relations with an NGO should be decided when deemed necessary or when there is a complete absence of actual collaboration;
  - g. In exceptional cases or if circumstances require, relations with an organization should

- i. be suspended by the Meeting of States Parties or in emergency by the Advisory Body itself, until a decision regarding the termination of relations is taken; or
    - ii. be terminated with immediate effect.
  - h. Each member of the Advisory Body should be able to request the Secretariat to consult the other members of the Body on any matter that may call for the termination of relations with a NGO, bringing forward proof or evidence allowing them to correctly assess this request;
  - i. While NGOs may officially state their accreditation to cooperate with and be consulted by the Advisory Body, any use of the logo of UNESCO or the Convention should be regulated by the rules and regulations of UNESCO;
5. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to adopt a format for the accreditation requests that is appropriate to provide the information needed to assess the fulfillment of the accreditation criteria;
6. Recommends that the Secretariat should register accreditation requests, present them to the Advisory Body and keep up-to-date and publicly accessible a list of the organizations accredited by the Meeting of States Parties.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 5 / MAB 1**

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

1. Having examined document UCH/10/1.MAB/220/5;
2. Considering that it is its function to propose to the Meeting of States Parties standards of and means to promote best practice in underwater cultural heritage sites protection and materials conservation according to Article 1 (b) of its Statutes;
3. Recommends to the Meeting of States Parties:
  - a. to foster the adaptation of national legislation protecting underwater cultural heritage and cooperation in this regard, in particular in small Island States;
  - b. to remind the State Parties to adapt and enforce national legislation in application of Article 16 of the Convention and to prevent activities undertaken by their nationals and vessels flying their flag also outside of their territorial waters, which are not in line with the Convention;
  - c. to assist in the drafting of clear national rules for the authorization of interventions on underwater cultural heritage sites, which include also rules concerning activities only incidentally affecting these sites and areas where such sites could only possibly be located and which require the approval of national competent authorities (Art 22.1 of the Convention) for interventions;
  - d. to encourage States to make it compulsory for their national authorities, ministries and departments undertaking activities on the seabed or riverbed, as for instance coast guards, the navy, dredging services, research services, fisheries monitoring, etc. to confidentially communicate information on underwater cultural heritage found or on activities

- concerning or affecting such heritage to the competent national authorities (Article 22.1 of the Convention);
- e. to advise States Parties to request information and cooperation also from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and national hydro- and oceanographic services;
  - f. to collect and disseminate accounts of experience with public access and awareness projects, in particular virtual diving, marine parks and dive-trails; and to cooperate to make virtual in situ access available for a global audience via the UNESCO website;
  - g. to elaborate guidelines for the establishment of national inventories in order to ensure the interchangeability of national databases on the long term and to call on ICUCH to assist in this exercise;
  - h. to elaborate ethical standards for divers in line with the Convention and to cooperate with third entities, in particular those training divers;
  - i. to provide assistance to States Parties to build capacity in the area of underwater cultural heritage protection;
  - j. to elaborate a study on the benefit of the valorization of underwater cultural heritage and to make its protection compatible with economic development and sustainable tourism in Small Island Developing States;
  - k. to elaborate a study on the most significant factors affecting negatively the conservation of underwater cultural heritage and the identification of remedial measures;
  - l. to recommend the urgent recruitment of additional permanent staff for the UNESCO Secretariat for the Convention and the allocation of additional resources to facilitate the communication with the State Parties and to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

## **RESOLUTION 6 / MAB 1**

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

1. Requests the Director-General of UNESCO to convene its next session directly after the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Meeting of State Parties in Paris ;
2. Decides to work electronically by the use of emails and applying the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of State Parties *mutatis mutandis*;
3. Decides that resolutions and recommendations shall only be taken by electronic exchange if a simple majority of the Advisory Body members has voted on the concerned issue.