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Protection of
Cultural Property in
the Event of Armed Conflict

**Four-year cycle
2017-2020**

**Questionnaire
National report on the implementation of the 1954 Hague
Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Region:

State Party:
Japan

2. Submission of previous national reports

Yes

No

2.1. 2013-2016 cycle

3. Actors involved in the preparation of the national report

3.1. Government institutions responsible for the protection of cultural property

3.2. National Commission for UNESCO

3.3. Military expert

3.4. Independent experts

If other actors have been involved, please indicate them

4. National Focal Point

According to paragraph 120 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol: *"Unless a Party requests otherwise, the presumed focal point would be its Permanent Delegation to UNESCO."* If you do not consider the Permanent Delegation as a focal point, you are invited to provide the Secretariat with the name and address of a national focal point who will receive all official documents and correspondence related to the national periodic reporting.

Institution: Permanent Delegation of Japan to UNESCO	Email: dl.japan@unesco-delegations.org
Name: [REDACTED]	Tel.: (33-1) 5359-2700
Address: 100 Avenue de Suffren 75015 Paris France	Fax: (33-1) 5359-2727

I. The Hague Convention of 1954

1. Article 3 - Safeguarding of cultural property

This Article provides for the obligation of the High Contracting Parties to adopt relevant peacetime safeguarding measures against the foreseeable effects of an armed conflict.

- *Has your State undertaken such measures?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Important cultural properties in Japan are given special status such as National Treasures in accordance with the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (hereinafter referred to as “the Cultural Properties Law”) to regulate physical alterations to them and to provide assistance for their repair and maintenance.

Japan has made inventories of those cultural properties and has taken measures for safeguarding them even in time of peace.

2. Article 6 - Use of the distinctive emblem for the marking of cultural property

The 1954 Hague Convention creates a distinctive emblem for the exclusive marking of cultural property, with a view to ensure its recognition, particularly in the event of armed conflict. The marking of cultural property is one of the preparatory measures that can be undertaken in time of peace.

- *Has your State **marked cultural property** by using the distinctive emblem of the Convention?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

In time of peace, Japan leaves it up to the owners of the cultural properties to decide whether or not to use the distinctive emblem.

3. Article 7 - Military measures

This Article provides for the obligations of the High Contracting Parties with regard to the introduction in their regulations or instructions for the use of their armed forces of provisions to ensure compliance with the Convention, as well as to plan or establish within their armed forces, services or specialist personnel whose purpose will be to secure respect for cultural property and to co-operate with the civilian authorities responsible for safeguarding such property. These are obligations to be implemented in time of peace.

- *Has your State introduced provisions in the **regulations and instructions for your armed forces** to ensure compliance with the Convention?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

The Self-Defense Forces Law stipulates that the Ministry of Defense (hereinafter referred to as “the MOD”) and the Self-Defense Forces (hereinafter referred to as “the SDF”) shall make appropriate efforts to ensure compliance with international law and custom, including the Convention.

- *Has your State established **services** or designated specialist personnel *within your armed forces* to ensure respect for cultural property?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

In the MOD and the SDF, the sections or personnel responsible for the affairs related to International Humanitarian Laws shall be in charge of the implementation of the Convention in close cooperation with other governmental agencies (e.g. the Agency for Cultural Affairs), which are responsible for the protection of cultural property.

4. Article 25 - Dissemination of the Convention

Regulations relating to the protection of cultural property in time of armed conflict must be included into the programmes of military and, if possible, civilian training. The objective is to ensure that the principles of the Convention are known by the whole population, especially the armed forces and personnel engaged in the protection of cultural property.

- *Has your State **disseminated the provisions of the Convention** within the armed forces as well as among target groups and the general public?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs disseminates the provisions of the Convention by distributing documents on them to interested parties, mainly relevant divisions in local governments. The SDF is conducting internal education programmes on the provisions of the Convention.

5. Article 26(1) - Official translations

This Article requires that the High Contracting Parties communicate to one another, through the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the official translations of the present Convention and of the Regulations for its execution:

Please submit a copy / copies of such translation(s), in electronic format, if possible, to the Secretariat”

Please annex an *electronic copy of your translation(s) to this report*:

[Attached the document](#)

6. Article 28 - Sanctions

This Article provides for the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to take, within the framework of their ordinary criminal jurisdiction, all necessary steps to prosecute and impose penal or disciplinary sanctions upon those persons, regardless of their nationality, who commit or order a breach of the Convention.

- *Has your State **introduced in your domestic legislation** all necessary steps to prosecute and impose penal or disciplinary sanctions against a conduct contrary to the obligations set out in the Convention?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

In addition to the Penal Code, the SDF Law and the Cultural Properties Law, Japan adopted the Law for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (hereinafter referred to as “the Law”) in 2007, thereby took all necessary steps to implement the Convention.

The Act on Penal Sanctions against Grave Breaches of the International Humanitarian Law also provides that destructions of the cultural properties under the enhanced protection shall be punished as serious violations of international humanitarian law.

II. Resolution II of the 1954 Conference

- *Has your State established a **National Advisory Committee** in accordance with the wish expressed by the Intergovernmental Conference (1954) in Resolution II?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

N/A

- *In the event that you have established a National Advisory Committee, has it been incorporated into a national commission for the implementation of international humanitarian law?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

N/A

III. 1954 (First) Protocol

[To be completed only by the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Protocol]

The main purpose of the 1954 Protocol is the protection of cultural property in **or stemming from** occupied territory.

- *Has your State undertaken **measures to implement** these international obligations, including the adoption of relevant legislation?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

As for the prevention of the export of cultural properties from an occupied territory stipulated in the First Protocol, it is not supposed under the Japanese Constitution that Japan occupies the territories of other countries. Japan also has the Law that prohibits import of such cultural properties without approval and makes any person who destroys, delivers or receives such cultural properties punishable by imprisonment or a fine.

IV. The 1999 Second Protocol

[To be filled in only by the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol]

The 1999 Second Protocol supplements the 1954 Hague Convention in many respects. In case the information has already been presented in the context of questions relating to the 1954 Hague Convention, you can directly refer to it.

1. Article 5 - Safeguarding of cultural property

Article 5 of the Second Protocol supplements Article 3 of the Hague Convention by providing concrete examples of preparatory measures to be undertaken in time of peace, such as the preparation of inventories of cultural property or the designation of competent authorities responsible for the safeguarding of cultural property.

- *Has your State undertaken such measures?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Important cultural properties in Japan have special status such as National Treasures in accordance with the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (hereinafter referred to as “the Cultural Properties Law”) to regulate physical alterations to them and to provide assistance for their repair and maintenance.

Japan has made inventories of those cultural properties and has taken measures for safeguarding them even in time of peace.

2. Article 9 - Protection of cultural property in occupied territory

Article 9 of the Second Protocol complements Article 5 of the 1954 Hague Convention by imposing specific obligations on the occupying power. Paragraph 119 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol requires Parties that are occupying powers to provide information in their national reports on how the provisions relating to the protection of cultural property in occupied territory are being respected.

- *Do you ensure compliance with the provisions relating to the **protection of cultural property in the context of military occupation?***

YES: NO: Not applicable:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

It is not supposed under its constraints of the Japanese Constitution that Japan occupies the territories of other countries.

3. Article 10 - Enhanced protection

The 1999 Second Protocol establishes an enhanced protection regime. Enhanced protection is granted by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed conflict (composed of 12 Parties).

- *Do you **intend to request the granting** of enhanced protection for cultural property within the next four years or, if appropriate, to submit a **national tentative list** under Article 11 (1) of the 1999 Second Protocol?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Japan is considering which cultural properties should be put under enhanced protection, while following the progress of consideration of requests for enhanced protection by the Committee.

MONITORING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY UNDER ENHANCED PROTECTION

[If some cultural property in your State benefits from enhanced protection, please also fill in this part of the questionnaire].

The benefit of enhanced protection implies the continued fulfilment of the conditions provided for in Article 10 of the 1999 Second Protocol.

- *Is a **specific mechanism for monitoring cultural property under enhanced protection** in place? For example, are the measures undertaken to ensure the highest level of protection periodically reviewed to ensure their full adequacy in all circumstances?*

YES: NO: **N/A**

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

N/A

Pursuant to paragraph 94 of the Guidelines, a distinctive emblem is created for the exclusive marking of cultural property under enhanced protection.

- *Has your State **marked with the distinctive emblem** cultural property under enhanced protection?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

N/A

4. Article 15 - Serious violations of the 1999 Second Protocol

“Article 15 obliges Parties to **establish as criminal** offences in their domestic law offences constituting serious breaches of the Second Protocol, **and to make such offences punishable by** appropriate penalties”.

- *Has your State implemented this obligation?* If yes, what measures have been undertaken?

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

The Law, which was adopted to implement the Second Protocol in 2007, makes the offences stipulated in Article 15.1(a) to (d) punishable by imprisonment, while those stipulated in Article 15.1(e) have been punishable by the existing laws such as the Penal Code.

The Act on Penal Sanctions against Grave Breaches of the International Humanitarian Law also provides that destructions of the cultural properties under the enhanced protection shall be punished as serious violations of the international humanitarian law.

5. Article 16 - Jurisdiction

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Second Protocol, the Parties shall take the necessary legislative measures to establish their jurisdiction over offences set forth in Article 15 of the 1999 Second Protocol in certain cases.

- *Has your State implemented this obligation?* If yes, what measures have been undertaken **to grant jurisdiction to your courts** over serious offences under the 1999 Second Protocol?

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Japan established its jurisdiction over offences committed outside the territory of Japan stipulated in Article 16.1(b) and (c) of the Second Protocol by the Law, which makes the relevant provisions of the Penal Code applicable to the offences.

6. Article 21 - Measures regarding other violations

The 1999 Second Protocol obliges Parties to adopt legislative, administrative or disciplinary measures as may be necessary to **suppress certain other violations of the Second Protocol**:

a. any use of cultural property in violation of the 1954 Hague Convention or the 1999 Second Protocol;

b. any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property from occupied territory in violation of the 1954 Hague Convention or the 1999 Second Protocol.

- *Has your State implemented such measures?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Japan has adopted necessary measures to suppress the activities stipulated in Article 21 (a) of the Second Protocol by the relevant laws, such as the Self-Defense Forces Law, but that is not the case with the activities stipulated in Article 21 (b), since it is not supposed under the Japanese Constitution that Japan occupies the territories of other countries.

7. Article 30 - Dissemination

Article 30 of the Second Protocol complements Articles 7 and 25 of the 1954 Hague Convention. In this regard, Article 30 it asks the Parties, to endeavour by appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect for cultural property by their entire population, to ensure the dissemination of the 1999 Second Protocol, and to incorporate in their military regulations' guidelines and instructions for the protection of cultural property.

- *Has your State disseminated the provisions of the Convention and the Second Protocol within the armed forces as well as to target groups and the general public?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs disseminates the provisions of the Convention by distributing documents on them to interested parties, mainly relevant divisions in local governments. The SDF is conducting internal education programs on the Second Protocol.

8. Article 33 – Assistance of UNESCO

Pursuant to paragraph 151 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol, the Parties having activities at bilateral or multilateral level are invited to inform the Committee, in their periodic reports, of their activities in order to share their experiences or good practices.

- *Has your State shared, in particular through the Secretariat of UNESCO, your experiences and good practices in implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and / or its Protocols?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Japan has provided assistance to strengthen capacity building to protect cultural properties/heritages through UNESCO, including activities in relation to the 1999 Second Protocol such as preparatory action to safeguard cultural property/heritage.

9. Article 37 - Official translation of the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention

Pursuant to Article 37 of the Second Protocol, the Parties shall translate the 1999 Second Protocol into their official language(s) of their countries and shall communicate these official translations to the Director-General.

Please submit a copy / copies of such translation(s), in electronic format, if possible, to the Secretariat.

Please annex an *electronic copy of your translation(s) to this report* .

Attached the document

V. Other questions relating to the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols

1. Ratification of / accession to other international treaties having provisions of the protection of cultural property

- Can you indicate the other international instruments to which your State is a party?

International instruments	Ratification/Accession
1970 UNESCO Convention on the means on Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property	Acceptance
1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the World, Cultural and Natural Heritage	Acceptance
2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	N/A
2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage	Acceptance
2005 UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions	N/A
Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Accession
Additional Protocol (II) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Accession
Additional Protocol (III) to the Geneva Conventions, 2005	N/A

2. National practice relating to the implementation of the Hague Convention and its two Protocols

The Secretariat would be grateful if you could annex a copy of the following documents in French and/or English:

- Relevant **civil and military administrative regulations**:

PDF Document Website **N/A**

- **National laws** relating to the protection of cultural property, as well as criminal provisions adopted in the context of the implementation of Article 28 of the Hague Convention and Articles 15, 16 and 21 of the Second Protocol, and case law relating to the protection of cultural property.

PDF Document Website **N/A**

- Documents relating to awareness-raising activities (seminar programme, brochures, etc.), as well as any other document (legislative, judicial or administrative) relevant to the dissemination of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol.

PDF Document

Website

N/A

3. Effectiveness of cooperation mechanisms at the national level

- The implementation of the Hague Convention and its two Protocols requires cooperation at the national level between the various authorities (civil, military, etc.). Can you assess the degree of cooperation, at the national level, in your State?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| There is no cooperation between the different authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There is limited cooperation between the different authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There is cooperation between the various authorities, but there are still improvements to be made | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There is a perfectly functional cooperation between the different authorities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

VI. Self-assessment forms

In order to reflect in the synthesis document of the national reports the status of implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol in key areas, please fill in the two tables below.

1. Assessment of the degree of implementation

[To do this, please use the following rating scale]

1. Not at all implemented;
2. Partially implemented and the process is at standstill;
3. Partially implemented, the process following its course; and
4. Fully implemented.

Implementation of the safeguarding obligation through the adoption of preparatory measures	4
Military training on regulations for the protection of cultural property	4
Use of the distinctive emblem to mark cultural property	N/A
Implementation of the obligation to disseminate, through the implementation of awareness-raising activities for target audiences	4
Adoption of relevant criminal legislation	4
<i>For Parties with cultural property under enhanced protection only.</i> Establishment of a monitoring system for cultural property under enhanced protection at the national level	N/A

2. Assessment of the difficulties encountered

[To do this, please use the following rating scale]

1. Difficulties are encountered, but there are no plans to seek technical assistance from the UNESCO Secretariat;
2. Difficulties are encountered, nevertheless, it is planned to make use of the technical assistance of the UNESCO Secretariat;
3. Difficulties were encountered, but thanks to the technical assistance of the Secretariat they could be resolved;
4. Difficulties were encountered at first, but they turned into challenges that were overcome; and
5. No difficulties were encountered.

Implementation of the safeguarding obligation through the adoption of preparatory measures	5
Military training on regulations for the protection of cultural property	5
Use of the distinctive emblem to mark cultural property	N/A
Implementation of the obligation to disseminate, through the implementation of awareness-raising activities for target audiences	5
Adoption of relevant criminal legislation	5
<i>For Parties with cultural property under enhanced protection only.</i> Establishment of a monitoring system for cultural property under enhanced protection at the national level	N/A

VII. Enhanced protection mechanism – Opinion survey

Pursuant to Chapter 3 of the 1999 Second Protocol, enhanced protection is granted by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict if three criteria are cumulatively met:

- ✓ Cultural property is of the greatest importance to humanity;
- ✓ Cultural property is protected by adequate domestic, legal and administrative measures recognising its exceptional cultural and historical value and ensuring the highest level of protection; and
- ✓ Cultural property must not be used for military purposes or to shield military sites. And the Party which has control over the cultural property has to make a declaration confirming that it will not be used for military purposes or to shield military sites.

As these conditions are set out in an international treaty, their interpretation cannot be made independently of State practice, which is of fundamental importance under international treaty law. Therefore, this national report is an opportunity for the national authorities of the Parties to express their views on the conditions under which enhanced protection is granted.

For each of the conditions set out in Article 10 of the Second Protocol, please answer the following questions, taking into consideration the relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol.

- Article 10, paragraph (a) - "The greatest importance for humanity"

Please list the main factors to be undertaken into consideration in determining whether a cultural property is of the greatest importance for humanity?

Japan is considering the main factors to be taken into consideration to determine which cultural properties should be put under enhanced protection, while following the progress of consideration of requests for enhanced protection by the Committee.

- Article 10, paragraph (b) - "The highest level of protection"

Please mention the national authorities to be consulted in determining the choice of measures to be adopted to ensure the highest level of protection for a cultural property for which enhanced protection is requested. What measures can ensure the highest level of protection?

Japan is considering the main factors to be taken into consideration to determine which cultural properties should be put under enhanced protection, while following the progress of consideration of requests for enhanced protection by the Committee.

- Article 10, paragraph (c) - "Not-used for military purposes"

Please mention the national authorities to be consulted in order to take the decision not to use the proposed cultural property for granting enhanced protection for military purposes or to shield military sites?

N/A