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INVITATIONS TO THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE 1970 UNESCO CONVENTION ON THE MEANS OF PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING THE ILLICIT IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

SUMMARY

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Regulations for the general classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board proposals for invitations to the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in June 2012.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 13.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As announced at the 186th session of the Executive Board (May 2011), the Director-General proposes to convene a Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property in June 2012.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

2. As announced by the Director-General, the Meeting will be tasked with examining in depth the impact of measures taken by the States Parties to the Convention in order to optimize its implementation, appraise its effectiveness with particular regard to new trends in trafficking in cultural property, and formulate strategies geared primarily to improve its application.

III. CATEGORY OF THE MEETING

3. Pursuant to the Regulations for the general classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO, the meeting falls within the category of "intergovernmental meetings other than international conferences of States" (category II).

IV. PARTICIPANTS

4. In accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Regulations in respect of category II meetings, it lies with the Executive Board to take decisions on invitations to the meeting.

Member States and Associate Members

5. Under Article 21, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Regulations, the Executive Board, on a proposal by the Director-General, shall decide on the Member States and Associate Members whose governments are to be invited to the meeting.

6. In accordance with Article 23 of the Regulations, the governments of the Member States and Associate Members invited to participate shall have the right to vote.

7. Under Article 21, paragraph 2, of the Regulations, Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO not invited under Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Regulations may send observers to the meeting.

Non-Member States

8. Pursuant to Article 21, paragraph 3, the Executive Board may designate non-Member States to be invited to send observers to the meeting.

International organizations (Articles 21.4 and 21.5 of the Regulations)

9. The Director-General reminds the Board that under Article 21, paragraph 4, of the Regulations, organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may send representatives to the meeting. In view of the subject-matter of the meeting, the Director-General proposes to invite the following United Nations bodies and organizations: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

10. Under Article 21, paragraph 5, of the Regulations, the Executive Board may decide that the following shall be invited to send observers to the meeting: (a) organizations of the United Nations

system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements; (b) other intergovernmental organizations; (c) international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with international non-governmental organizations.

11. The Director-General proposes that the Executive Board invite the following organizations and institutions to send observers to the meeting:

(a) organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements:

- World Bank

(b) other intergovernmental organizations:

- International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- World Customs Organization (WCO)
- European Commission
- International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

(c) international non-governmental organizations:

- International Council on Archives (ICA)
- International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- World Monuments Fund (WMF)
- European Historic Houses Association (UEHHA)

V. TIMETABLE

12. The Director-General proposes to convene the above-mentioned meeting in Paris, at UNESCO Headquarters, for two days in June 2012.

Proposed draft decision

13. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the announcement made by the Director-General at the 186th session of the Executive Board in May 2011,
2. Having examined document 187 EX/43,
3. Invites the Director-General to convene a Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention (category II intergovernmental meeting), tasked with examining in depth the impact of measures taken by States Parties to the Convention to optimize its implementation, with appraising its effectiveness with particular regard to new trends in

trafficking in cultural property and with formulating strategies geared in particular to improve its implementation.

4. Decides that
 - (a) invitations to participate in the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property will be extended to all Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO;
 - (b) invitations to send observers to the above-mentioned Meeting will be extended to the States referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 of document 187 EX/43;
 - (c) invitations to send representatives to the above-mentioned Meeting will be extended to the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements and which are listed in paragraph 9 of document 187 EX/43;
 - (d) invitations to send observers to the above-mentioned Meeting will be extended to organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements, to other intergovernmental organizations and to the international non-governmental organizations listed in paragraph 11 of document 187 EX/43;
5. Authorizes the Director-General to extend any other invitations that she may deem conducive to the work of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention, notifying the Executive Board thereof.