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Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (UNESCO, Paris, 1970)

Seventh Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI
22 and 23 May 2019

Item 5 of the provisional agenda: Report of the Secretariat on its activities

This document presents the Secretariat's report concerning activities undertaken between May 2018 and April 2019

<u>Draft decision</u>: Paragraph 27

Introduction

 In accordance with Decision 6.SC 5, the Secretariat reports back to the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (hereafter referred to as "the 1970 Convention"), on the activities implemented since the close of the Sixth Session of the Subsidiary Committee (28-29 May 2018).

Structure of the Secretariat

- 2. The Secretariat of the 1970 Convention is currently endowed with six established posts (one D-1, four from the Professional category and one from the General Service category). One of the professional posts is currently under recruitment.
- 3. This permanent workforce is supplemented by one Junior Professional Officer (JPO) generously provided by Germany, as well as one temporary position and two service contract holders.

Financial resources

4. For the biennium 2018-2019, the Regular Programme budget for activities under the Expected Result 2 in the Approved C/ Document is 1,404,700 USD. This is entirely devoted to activities related to the 1970 Convention. In addition, the Expected Result 2 received additional appropriations to the Regular Programme totalling 554,515 USD from Germany, Principality of Monaco, Mexico, Paraguay, Sweden and Switzerland. Regarding the extra budgetary resources, three projects funded by the European Union are currently being implemented (total requested EU Contribution: 1,150,000 EUR over a period of four years). Regarding Special Accounts, the Fund, created for the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, received a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands equivalent to 40,000 USD in 2018; It was added to the balance of 96,471 USD totalling 136,471 USD (interest of 2,282 USD not included).

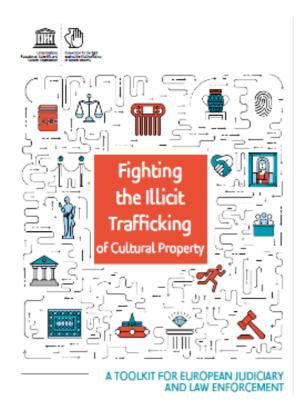
Statutory Implementation

- 5. Increasing the ratifications of the 1970 Convention is a priority for the Secretariat. The Secretariat has continued to promote the 1970 Convention through advocacy, technical assistance and capacity building. Since the last report of April 2018, three new States have ratified the Convention: Djibouti (April 2018), Togo (November 2018) and Latvia (January 2019), bringing the number of States Parties up to 139 States.
- 6. Furthermore, Member States of UNESCO are encouraged to accede to the UNIDROIT Convention of 1995 on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, as a legal and operational supplement to the 1970 Convention. To date, the Convention has been ratified by 46 States. Since April 2018, Burkina Faso (October 2018), Myanmar (June 2018), Syrian Arab Republic (April 2018) and Latvia (February 2019) have acceded to this treaty.

Priority Topics

7. At its Sixth Session, the Subsidiary Committee adopted Decision <u>6.SC 10</u>, which agreed to include sensitization of the judiciary, sensitization of youth, due diligence and cooperation with the art market as priority topics to be discussed in the Seventh session of the Committee in 2019. In this regard, the Secretariat has already begun developing the following activities:

- a) Sensitization of the Judiciary: In the framework of the UNESCO-European Union cooperation project, the workshop Training the European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property was organized at UNESCO Headquarters (26-28)November 2018) bringing together 105 participants, 58 of whom were representatives of the judicial authorities. customs services, and police forces of 31 countries. The project European produced the "Toolkit for European Judiciary and Law Enforcement - Fighting the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property" (available in English and French) and launched the first elearning modules to raise awareness of European law enforcement and judiciary on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. The Secretariat is now working on the development of the first webinar in cooperation with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and on a new module to be integrated in to the programme of the European Judicial Training Network. Document C70/19/7.SC/8c reports on the subject.
- b) Sensitization of Youth: In order to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural property, the Secretariat and UNESCO field offices have continued to implement several activities in order to raise awareness, information and vigilance through education. Some of these activities are targeted at the youth, in particular through inspiring them to appreciate the value of cultural heritage and its relation to the cultural identity and history Document and humanity. communities C70/19/7.SC/8d reports on this subject.





c) Cooperation with art market and due diligence: UNESCO continues to foster constructive and active cooperation with key stakeholders of the art market regarding the fight against illicit trafficking. Most recently, a joint UNESCO-EU conference was held within the framework of the project "Engaging the European art market in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property", which aimed at reinforcing due diligence conduct in the European art trade, to raise awareness of art market stakeholders regarding the legal framework available on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and to strengthen cooperation and exchange good practices amongst European art market professionals and public authorities. In this regard, a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) was launched in the framework of the above-mentioned project, in order to provide educational and interactive materials to enable art market professionals and the public to better understand the international legal framework regulating the illicit trafficking of cultural property. Furthermore, the working document C70/19/7.SC/8a has been prepared on due diligence and document C70/19/7.SC/9b on the cooperation with the art market.

Contribution to the implementation of UNESCO's cross-cutting priorities

- 8. UNESCO's 39 C/5 Programme and Budget includes the following Global Priorities and priority target groups. The 1970 Convention has contributed by:
 - a. <u>Global Priority Africa</u>: the efforts exerted by the Secretariat and counterparts in UNESCO Field Offices to reinforce capacities amongst African States on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property has led to additional ratifications of the Convention. In 2018, two African States ratified the Convention: Djibouti (April 2018) and Togo (November 2018). Furthermore, out of seventeen (17) capacity-building activities implemented by the Secretariat, six (6) took place in Africa (please refer to Annex I for more details). Moreover, the Secretariat has given technical advice to Nigeria regarding the case of the Ifé Bronze Head that was stolen from the Museum in Jos in 1987.
 - b. <u>Gender Equality</u>: the Secretariat promotes gender equality through encouraging the participation of at least 50% of women in all its activities. The UNESCO-EU joint initiatives were particularly successful, 54% of participants were women in the conference "Engaging the European Union Art Market in the Fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property" and 62% were women in the "Training for the European Judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property". Nevertheless, ensuring 50% participation of women is a challenge in capacity building workshops, as generally there are few women in the field of law enforcement (police, customs and the army). The Secretariat also promotes the active role of women who are experts in the field relating to the implementation of the 1970 Convention in statutory and technical meetings.
 - c. <u>Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</u>: the Convention supports the implementation of the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan (2016-2021) and in particular, Priority 4 "Preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promoting culture for island sustainable development" in different regions. Ratification rates are low with only 9 States Parties to the Convention from SIDS.¹ Therefore, the Secretariat in cooperation with Field Offices has been raising awareness on the Convention via capacity building workshops. For instance, a workshop took place in Jamaica (20-21 March 2018), with a follow-up activity scheduled to take place in September 2019. UNESCO Nairobi Office, in cooperation with the Government of Seychelles, will be holding a workshop to strengthen capacities on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in end of July 2019. Additionally, the UNESCO Office in Apia is currently working with the Marshall Islands on an awareness-raising campaign to be set up at the airport and docks to prevent the illegal export of cultural properties.

Culture and conflict

- 9. The Secretariat works closely with Field Offices to implement activities targeting areas in conflict. In this regard, the Secretariat in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut organized a conference entitled "Fight against the trafficking of antiquities in the Mashreq: training programme for specialists in the fight against the looting of cultural artefacts and the illicit trafficking in antiquities" (16-20 April 2018). This workshop was financed by the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO, and was held in collaboration with the association for research into crimes against art.
- 10. UNESCO's Khartoum and Cairo Offices in collaboration with the Sudanese Government organized a Training Workshop on Protecting Cultural Artefacts against Illicit Trafficking and during Armed Conflicts (1-4 October 2018, Khartoum, Sudan). The workshop was

¹ Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Mauritius and Seychelles.

held with the aim of reinforcing institutional capacities in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural property, but also to encourage Sudan to ratify the 1970 Convention and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention.

11. The Secretariat contributed to the report of the Secretary General on the return and restitution of cultural property to its countries of origin, presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its 73rd session (item 10). Which resulted in the adoption of resolution A/RES/73/130 on December 2018, which stressed the importance attached by countries of origin to the return or restitution of cultural property and recognized the leading role of UNESCO in combating trafficking in cultural property while commending it on the work accomplished.

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals



12. The implementation of the Convention contributes to the achievement of SDG 16, target 4: "significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime". Capacity building workshops directed at different regions of the world cover the link between the illicit trafficking of cultural property and organized crime including terrorism. The 1970 Convention also encourages the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2199 and 2347 in this regard. Concerning the return of stolen assets, the Secretariat of the 1970 Convention has offered technical advice to a number of States on how to proceed with cases concerning stolen or illegally exported cultural property, through detailed explanations on how to apply the legal frameworks. Furthermore, the Seventh Session of the Subsidiary Committee has dedicated an afternoon for discussions on return and restitution within the framework of the Convention (please refer to document C70/19/7.SC/10).



13. The implementation of the Convention also contributes to the achievement of SDG 4, target 7: "promotion of a culture of peace and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development". In acknowledgement of the importance of the role of education, the Secretariat focuses on raising awareness on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. This is achieved through capacity building workshops and various awareness raising campaigns that address different target groups. Furthermore, the Secretariat has developed a variety of legal and practical instruments to contribute to the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property.



14. Finally, the activities carried out by the Secretariat aimed at reinforcing the implementation of the 1970 Convention, are linked to the achievement of SDG 11, target 4: "strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage". The illicit trafficking of cultural property results in the loss of irreplaceable objects, robbing communities of their history and identity. Overall, the implementation of the 1970 Convention results in the protection and preservation of cultural property for future generations.

International Cooperation

Cooperation with the European Union

- 15. In December 2018, the Secretariat signed a new agreement for the execution of another UNESCO-EU joint initiative entitled "inter-regional and cross-cutting action aiming to strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property". This project aims at training on the international legal frameworks as well as sharing relevant examples and best practices. It is expected to enhance and capitalize on ongoing actions undertaken within the framework of the EU-UNESCO joint initiative aiming to fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, whilst enlarging its scope of target-groups and final beneficiaries.
- 16. Its specific objectives include monitoring and measuring the impact of the two ongoing EU-UNESCO joint actions aimed at strengthening the capacity of art market professionals, the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, and strengthening inter-regional cooperation and exchange of good practices between European and ENI South Partner Countries/Western Balkans countries. The project will create a web-based documentation and training resource centre. The project envisions the organization of a training workshop for ENI South Partner Countries institutions, related to the implementation of the UNSC Resolutions 2199 (February 2015), 2253 (December 2015) and 2347 (March 2017) related to the protection of cultural heritage at risk, the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and its links with terrorism funding. The project will also raise the awareness of the general public and local populations as well as travellers and tourists on the importance of cultural heritage and the urgent need for its protection.

Cooperation with International, Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations

- 17. Cooperation has increasingly strengthened between UNESCO and its partner organizations including: the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Council of Museums (ICOM) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and with the specialized police corps of the Carabinieri (Italy), the Office Central de Lutte Contre le Trafic des Biens Culturals (OCBC, France) and the Guardia Civil (Spain).
- 18. Various joint initiatives have yielded tangible results. Expertise from INTERPOL, WCO and UNODC and specialized police corps with units working directly for the protection of cultural heritage has enriched training and capacity-building workshops to ensure that law enforcement, police and customs are aware of their role and the link between the illicit trafficking of cultural property and other organized crimes. Furthermore, training has raised the importance of the protection of borders from the illicit import and export of cultural property and the importance of the creation of networks between different authorities to investigate suspicious items and facilitate return and restitution. Overall cooperation has allowed stakeholders to benefit from a more comprehensive legal and practical framework to combat the pillaging and illicit transfer of cultural property.

Capacity-building and awareness-raising

19. In close cooperation with UNESCO Field Offices and its governmental and non-governmental partners, the Secretariat carries out training and capacity-building programmes in all regions of the world. From April 2018 to April 2019, 22 capacity-building workshops, conferences and seminars were held for more than 700 participants representing 18 countries. Please refer to Annex I for more details.

20. UNESCO organized awareness raising activities producing different online and offline communication tools to disseminate information on the Convention. Please refer to Annex II for more details.

Periodic reporting system

21. Pursuant to <u>Decision 5.SC 9A</u>, the Secretariat developed an electronic reporting system and launched it for States Parties to submit their national reports on the legislative and administrative provisions that they have adopted and on other measures taken to implement the Convention. For the first time the 1970 Convention received the reports electronically as a result of the strides taken by the Subsidiary Committee to improve the efficiency and effectivity of periodic reporting cycles. The 2019 Periodic reporting cycle of the Convention proved to be very effective as the Secretariat received a record number of national reports (68 reports from its 137 State Parties²). This is the first time in the history of the Convention that half of its State Parties submitted their national reports. Please refer to document C70/19/7.SC/6 on the National Reports.

Practical tools

Website of the 1970 Convention

22. The Secretariat works on the website and encourages Member States to use it as a platform for information exchange and knowledge Most visitors seek management. general information about Convention, followed by information on the UNESCO database of national legislations on cultural heritage and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention as well as pages dedicated to cases of return or restitution of artefacts.



<u>UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws</u>

- 23. In September 2017, the Secretariat launched the new webpage of the National Heritage Laws <u>Database</u>, which is a unique international gateway to national laws related to cultural and natural heritage that is available online and free of charge, multilingual and interactive. It offers to the public updated legal and practical information to enable an effective fight against looting, stealing and trafficking in cultural property.
- 24. There has been therefore a pressing need for States Parties to contribute to the sustainability of this tool which is essential for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. In November 2018, Sweden and Switzerland generously contributed to the sustainability and enhancement of the Database.

² 137 States Parties to the Convention as of October 2018.

Web alerts in the event of thefts of cultural property

- 25. Between May 2018 and April 2019, the Secretariat received six alerts from <u>Greece</u> to publish <u>international online alerts on stolen cultural property</u>, thereby contributing to international awareness and cooperation efforts to facilitate their return to their country of origin, in compliance with Article 9 of the Convention.
- 26. To ensure that the alerts sent to the Secretariat would help in identifying the missing objects, Member States are invited to provide as far as feasible all information available to them, in particular photographs and descriptions as per the Object ID requirements.
- 27. The Subsidiary Committee may wish to consider adopting the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 7.SC 5

The Subsidiary Committee,

- 1. Having considered document C70/19/7.SC/5;
- 2. <u>Takes note</u> of the report of the Secretariat on its activities and in particular the numerous activities carried out with field offices of UNESCO and its major partners;
- 3. <u>Thanks</u> Members of the Committee and the States Parties who generously provided financial and human support for the activities developed by the Secretariat;
- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the activities developed in the field of education, training and awareness-raising for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property;
- Encourages the 53 Member States of UNESCO who have not yet done so to become Parties, by the Eighth Session of the Subsidiary Committee, and <u>encourages also</u> the States which have not yet done so to accede the UNIDROIT Convention of 1995;
- 6. <u>Invites</u> the Members of the Committee and the States Parties to increase their human and financial support for activities designed to support the effective implementation of the Convention;
- 7. Requests the Secretariat to pursue its efforts for the implementation of the Convention and invites the Secretariat to submit at its Eighth session a new report on its activities.

Annex I

Capacity-building and conferences

- 1. <u>Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 7-9 May 2018</u>: organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the General Directorate of Customs of Burkina Faso, in partnership with UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar and the Ministry of Culture and Arts, the first "Regional Workshop on the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property" addressed to customs in West and Central Africa. Officials from a dozen countries participated in the event that aimed to launch a first-awareness campaign on the fight against illicit traffic and to identify the needs for a capacity-building activity for agents operating in the field.
- 2. <u>Brussels, Belgium, 23 May 2018</u>: UNESCO took part in the "Conference on the illicit trafficking of cultural goods", organized by the European Parliament. The event discussed proposals for a European Union level regulation to ensure that imports of cultural goods from third countries are subject to uniform controls along all the European Union external borders. The conference brought together experts from cultural institutions, academia, law enforcement authorities and customs.
- 3. <u>São Paulo, Brazil, 4-5 June 2018</u>: in order to support the consolidation of a national policy in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, the Brazilian Ministry of Culture and Itau Cultural in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Brasilia, organized the seminar "Protection and Circulation of Cultural Goods: Fight Illicit Trafficking". The event shared experiences and good practices of relevant international organizations, South American countries and Brazilian national institutions dealing with this subject.
- 4. <u>Baghdad, Iraq, 27-28 June 2018:</u> the workshop on Protecting Cultural Heritage, organized by the European Union's Advisory Mission on civilian security sector reform in Iraq (EUAM Iraq) with assistance of the UNESCO Office in Baghdad, aimed at strengthening the collective protection of Iraq's cultural heritage. The discussions of the workshop provided to the participants a broad overview on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural properties enabling Iraqi and international experts to exchange best practices, challenges and to build helpful networks.
- 5. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4-6 July 2018: following Ethiopia's ratification of the 1970 Convention, UNESCO and the Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism organized a three-day national workshop entitled "Building Capacities in the Fight against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects in Ethiopia: Prevention, Cooperation, Restitution". This training provided a platform for discussion among national actors from museums, police and customs, archives and libraries, art professionals, art dealers, representatives of law enforcement institutions, etc. on the policies and practices required to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property nationally.
- 6. <u>Montevideo, Uruguay, 26-27 September 2018</u>: the first "National Seminar on the Prevention and Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property" was organized by the Government of Uruguay with the technical support of the UNESCO Office in Montevideo. A two-day seminar where national and international experts introduced the theme of the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural goods, their historical evolution, the existing normative instruments, and the role of the different institutions involved was held.

- 7. <u>Hanoi, Vietnam, 17-19 October 2018</u>: UNESCO participated in the 10th International Symposium on the Theft of and Illicit Traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiquities, organized by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The event brought together national representatives working in the field of protection of cultural heritage from all around the world to share their experiences, successes and challenges faced in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property.
- 8. <u>Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 23-25 October 2018</u>: UNESCO took part in a three-day joint Turkmen-Afghan workshop on combating illicit trafficking in cultural property organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for border officials from Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.
- 9. <u>Nouakchott, Mauritania, 6-9 November 2018</u>: the workshop training of trainers on the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property was organized by the UNESCO Office in Rabat. International institutions such as INTERPOL and UNIDROIT took part in this training addressed to representatives of the various institutions involved in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property and its restitution in Maghreb countries.
- 10. Rome, Italy, 12-16 November 2018: the UNESCO Office in Venice, in cooperation with the Italian Carabinieri for Cultural Heritage Protection (CC TPC), organized a capacity-building workshop on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, aimed at government officials from Republic of Moldova and Romania. Direct beneficiaries of the workshop were staff from relevant authorities of the two targeted countries, including ministries of culture, police, judiciary, and customs agencies.
- 11. Paris, France, 26-28 November 2018: the three-day capacity-building workshop entitled "Fighting the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property a Training Workshop for European Judiciary and Law Enforcement" was organized by UNESCO in the framework of the UNESCO European Union cooperation. It brought together experts from the judiciary, police and customs' professionals in order to raise awareness of the practical tools and the existing international and European legal frameworks, and to exchange good practices. Topics on the agenda included cooperation between the various competent agencies, the economic and security aspects of illicit trafficking, special investigation techniques and the prosecution of this crime.
- 12. Riga, Latvia, 11-12 December 2018: the Secretariat took part in the "International training seminar on reduction of shadow economy related to illegal turnover of cultural objects", presenting its expertise and sharing experience. The event was organized by the Latvian School of Public Administration and addressed to Latvian public institutions such as law enforcement agencies, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor's Office, National Heritage Protection Board and others, in view of ratification of the 1970 Convention by Latvia.
- 13. <u>Dakar, Senegal, 10-13 December 2018</u>: the UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal Customs and the WCO organized the first training on the "<u>Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage</u>" (PITCH) for countries in the West and Central Africa region. The training formed part of a project aimed at shedding light on the linkages between insecurity and the illicit trafficking of cultural objects as well as providing frontline Customs officers with hands-on operational tools to prevent this type of offence. It gathered more than 30 participants, including Customs officers from the 17 Customs administrations of the region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Gambia and Togo.

- 14. <u>Milan, Italy, 25 January 2019</u>: the International Relationship Committee (CRINT) of the Milano Bar Association organized a conference entitled "The international circulation of Artworks" at the occasion of the Opening of the 2019 Judicial Year of the Milano Court of Appeal. UNESCO took part in the first session presenting the Convention followed by presentation of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention dedicated to an overview of the Italian system followed by the European legal framework, the circulation between Switzerland and Italy and on how sales in auction houses work.
- 15. <u>Kuwait City, Kuwait, 18-19 February 2019</u>: a national capacity-building and awareness-raising workshop on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property requested by the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development and organized in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Doha addressed experts in the field of culture, custom and government officials. This workshop provided reference tools and frameworks to develop capacities regarding the prevention and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property and the restitution of stolen or illegally exported objects. Furthermore it also intended to develop networks at local, national and regional levels to ensure general awareness of the dramatic consequences of trafficking of cultural property on the impoverishment of the population.
- 16. <u>Malindi, Kenya, 13 March 2019</u>: a technical workshop entitled *Inventories Impacts on Museums and Collections Policies in Eastern Africa* took place in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, the Kenyan Minister of Sports, Culture and Heritage, the Kenyan Department of Culture, the National Museums of Kenya. This capacity-building workshop aimed to promote dialogue and exchanges between museum directors from the Eastern Africa region, with a focus on inventories of collections and their impact on museums policies. Museum directors from the 13 Member States covered by UNESCO's Regional Office participated (Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania).

Annex II

Awareness-raising activities

- 1. In the framework of the #Unite4Heritage campaign and the Stories Series, the Secretariat contributed to five videos:
 - i. "Eight artefacts seized by the French customs have been restituted to Egypt!", was produced in January 2018 with a main message that Stealing culture is stealing identity. The video tells the story of the restitution from France to Egypt of eight archaeological pieces seized by the French customs in January 2010. The incredible objects of more than 3000 years old were restituted in the framework of the 1970 Convention.
 - ii. "The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods continues!" was produced in March 2018 with a main message "Say no to illicit trafficking of cultural property". The video tells the story of a painting from Hilaire Germain Edgar de Gas found by French Customs in the luggage compartment of a bus near Paris, which was stolen in 2009 at the Cantini Museum in Marseille. The artwork was returned to the French authorities.
 - iii. "Have you ever heard of Operation Gemini?" produced in April 2018 with the message of "let us unite to protect works of art. It is our heritage." It is the story that began the day that 17 masterpieces were stolen from the Museum of Castelvecchio in Verona, Italy. A real race started against time, and police forces of several countries, coordinated by International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), set out to find the paintings as quickly as possible. During this time, the people of Verona, who had been terribly affected by the loss of their cultural heritage, responded by covering the city walls with illustrations of the stolen artworks.
 - iv. "Have you ever heard of 'blood antiquities'?" produced in June 2018 with the message "global response to a global threat" tells the story of a region weakened by armed conflict, looting of antiquities that has grown from a local concern to a global curse. Faced with the gravity of this phenomenon, which not only endangers our world's cultural heritage but also finances terrorism, UNESCO provides specialized programmes to train experts who can identify these stolen antiquities.
 - v. "More than 180 trafficked objects discovered in Buenos Aires by the Argentine Federal Police" was produced on October 2018 with the message "together against illicit trafficking". This story deals with illicit trafficked goods recovered in Argentina thanks to the international efforts and cooperation. These cultural goods have travelled across several continents before reaching Argentina.



- 2. In April 2018, edition 87 of the World Heritage magazine, was dedicated to Fighting Illicit Trade. This official UNESCO publication featured in-depth articles on cultural and natural World Heritage sites. The magazine looked at different aspects of illegal trafficking and trade, restitution cases, and an interview with an art collector who works closely with international organizations to ensure the correct provenance of objects for sale, etc.
- 3. The UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh produced a publication on cases of return and restitution in Cambodia with the aim to raise awareness and good practices. The publication illustrates efforts taken by the Royal Government of Cambodia to safeguard cultural heritage and fight the illicit trafficking of cultural property and restitution of stolen works of art since it regained its sovereignty in 1989.