

Forum: United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Question of: Preserving and Reconstructing Cultural Heritage in War-Torn Areas



Submitted by: Bulgaria

Co-submitted by: Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Egypt, Kenia, Lithuania, Nicaragua, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Venezuela

- 1 The UNESCO,
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3 *Convinced* that war and armed conflict pose major threat to cultural heritage,
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5 *Alarmed* by the fact that centuries of cultural heritage have been destroyed in Syria, like the
6 cities of Aleppo and Palmyra,
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8 *Defining* cultural heritage as the legacy of physical relics of a society which are inherited from
9 past generations,
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11 *Declaring* terrorism in its all forms unacceptable,
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13 *Viewing with appreciation* the efforts made by UNESCO to preserve and reconstruct cultural
14 heritage,
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16 *Expressing its concern* that the amount of destroyed cultural heritage will increase if wars don't
17 come to an end,
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19 *Bearing in mind* that terrorist organizations like ISIL and the Taliban are responsible for most
20 of the destruction of cultural heritage,
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22 *Noting with deep concern* that destroying opposing countries' cultural heritage has become a
23 strategy of war and is currently being used by terrorist organizations like ISIL to weaken gov-
24 ernments,
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26 1. **Calls upon** the service of guarded military vehicles to temporarily transfer museum
27 artifacts to protected areas which include but not limited to:
28 a. secure museums of the country's allies which:
29 i. will have signed an agreement which states that they will protect the
30 country's artifacts as they protect their own,
31 ii. feature high security alarm and surveillance systems,
32 iii. have regulated temperatures and humidity amounts that is appropriate
33 for preserving such artifacts,
34 b. areas outside conflict which will be:
35 i. hidden from the public,
36 ii. at least 50 kilometers away from conflict areas,
37 iii. guarded with surveillance systems and security officials,

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- c. former military bases which will:
 - i. be guarded by the governments that have a relation directly with the issue and the governments that UN/UNESCO assign with the criteria being dependent on the quality of their security officials,
 - ii. be protected by security cameras and alarm systems,
 - iii. only be used for the protection of artifacts;
2. **Urges** the establishment of a UNESCO sub-organization which will:
 - a. be called PARCH (Protection and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage),
 - b. mainly focus on preventing destruction of cultural heritage,
 - c. fund any actions to preserve and reconstruct cultural heritage;
3. **Recommends** countries to invest in the reconstruction of cultural heritage which have been destroyed, which will:
 - a. be funded by the yet to be established organization PARCH,
 - b. feature construction workers, who will:
 - i. be trained for restoring specific artifacts,
 - ii. be paid monthly salaries which will be funded by the financial aid of PARCH,
 - c. take place after conflict in areas of such heritage has subsided for safe reconstruction;
4. **Further encourages** countries to form a coalition to solve the problem of terrorism and destruction of cultural heritage by:
 - a. organizing official conferences which will be attended by representatives of each country that participates in the coalition,
 - b. combining military forces of participating countries to protect cultural heritage in war zones;
5. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.