

Forum: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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



Submitted by: Kingdom of Morocco

Co-submitted by: Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe

1 The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

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3 *Alarmed by the fact* that important world heritage is being destroyed due to the spread of ter-
4 rorism and extremist ideas,

5
6 *Aware of the fact* that rebuilding and restoring war-torn heritage is essential for protecting a
7 state's history and believing it should be done according to original building technique,

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9 *Recalling* that cultural and historical heritage cannot be an individual's property, therefore,
10 smuggling and illicit trading shall be prevented,

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12 *Deeply regretting* that the measures already taken were not enough to protect the Ancient City
13 of Palmyra, Buddhas of Bamiyan and others that were destroyed because of war or terrorist
14 acts,

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16 *Congratulating* the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of
17 Cultural Property and the Council on Monuments and Sites on their works on finding a solution
18 to this affair, but believing that there are still more actions that need to be taken,

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20 *Believing* that heritage represents a nation's culture and history and destroying it will remove
21 a big part of the state's identity,

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23 *Taking into account* the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347, which should help
24 prevent the destruction of cultural heritage,

25
26 **1. Urges** to get more information about cultural and natural heritage around the world by:

27 a. developing the UNESCO world heritage database in order to use a similar tech-
28 nique to the HEREIN Network which has working mechanisms such as creating
29 a social media site that will be available for all people around the world in order
30 to get information about local heritage from different regions,

31 b. making regular regional and worldwide expeditions with the help of volunteer
32 archaeologists and historians and the hired staff of UNESCO;

33
34 **2. Encourages** all states to take on more responsibility on protecting their cultural herit-
35 age by:

36 a. having armed security and other necessary staff around the area near the her-
37 itage site when conflict arises,

38 b. strengthening their border security systems and controls to take measures to
39 combat cross-border trading and smuggling,

- 40 c. following the measures that are described in the Security Council's Resolution
41 2347 and the UNESCO Declaration concerning the international destruction of
42 cultural heritage in 2003,
43 d. supporting the states that cannot afford these measures through financial help
44 from:
45 i. other member states,
46 ii. related NGOs and organizations such as the International Centre for the
47 Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (IC-
48 CROM),
49 iii. UNESCO;

50
51 **3. Requests** the protection of movable historic heritage during wartime by:

- 52 a. transporting all artifacts using strong vehicles which are guarded by security,
53 b. creating neutral UNESCO centers which will be used for storing and protecting
54 movable cultural heritages until danger in the country of origin comes to a stop,
55 c. storing the heritages in safe houses or areas outside of the conflict if transpor-
56 tation to the UNESCO centers is not possible at the moment and making sure
57 that the safe houses are guarded by security,
58 d. a contract to be made stating that the cultural heritage item will be returned
59 according to the date that the agreement has stated:
60 i. countries for relocation to be determined by the United Nations, United
61 Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
62 Security Council,
63 ii. the relocation process responsibilities assumed by UNESCO, since the
64 pieces that will be relocated are of significant value,
65 iii. an agreement to be made under the UNESCO's supervision to avoid
66 such conflicts,
67 iv. both countries policies will be taken into consideration at the time of pre-
68 paring an agreement,
69 v. the possible problems that may happen in the future will be considered;

70
71 **4. Further encourages** all member states to help the situation by:

- 72 a. funding the UNESCO World Heritage Fund in order to raise money for repairing
73 the destroyed cultural heritage,
74 b. working collaboratively with UNESCO and other member states in order to help
75 with the transportation and preserving process,
76 c. having more cooperation with related organizations beside UNESCO,
77 d. United Nations gather annual meetings with member states, especially coun-
78 tries which face this issue directly, to report the latest news going on with this
79 topic:
80 i. to be aware of the latest problems and try to find a solution,
81 ii. these conferences will be organized with financial support from the UN,
82 iii. the UN will be in charge of locating the conferences,
83 iv. these annual meetings will also include possible solution ideas for the
84 future conflicts about heritages;

85
86 **5. Hopes** to reconstruct and restore destroyed cultural heritage while preserving the orig-
87 inal by:

- 88 a. hiring and training restorers that specialize in ancient building techniques such
89 as carving and mosaic with the help of financial support from other member

90 states, funds, UNESCO and other related organizations in order to preserve the
91 cultural structure while rebuilding the artefact heritage with the help of organi-
92 zations such as but not limited to:

- 93 i. National Sculpture Society,
- 94 ii. The Salmagundi Club,
- 95 iii. Culture Push,
- 96 iv. Sacred Arts Research Foundation (SARF) and since these organiza-
97 tions non-profit the reconstruction process will be funded by the UN,
- 98 b. conducting scientific and technical research in order to gain more information
99 about:
 - 100 i. the current or possible damage to cultural heritage,
 - 101 ii. the reasons for the current or possible damage,
 - 102 iii. the techniques that were used in building the heritage sites,
- 103 c. conducting more detailed research in classifying natural and cultural artifacts
104 and showing more care while reconstructing mixed artifacts,
- 105 d. transferring these cultural treasures to museums around the world since at the
106 war zones they are not being used for any kind of educational or cultural pur-
107 poses, at the museums they can be held until the conflict is over and at that
108 time the heritages could be helpful for people who would like to visit, while the
109 exhibits will include information about the war areas in order to raise awareness;
110

111 **6. Invites** the Security Council to work more collaboratively with UNESCO in order to find
112 solutions on the terrorism and war aspect of the issue by:

- 113 a. having more conventions,
- 114 b. having further resolutions such as the Resolution 2347,
- 115 c. coordinating peacekeeping operations in war-torn areas more closely and or-
116 ganizing more peacekeeping operations that aim to protect cultural heritage;
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118 **7. Further requests** making cultural and natural heritage more important in society's eyes
119 by:

- 120 a. holding further events and activities in museums and cultural sites, such as
121 concerts and art exhibitions, and making sure that all the money raised will be
122 given to the organizations/campaigns that help the reconstruction,
- 123 b. publishing articles that include the importance of this issue:
 - 124 i. the history of the heritage, the people who lived/used the heritage, the
125 process and the way the heritage was built and the conflicts the heritage
126 is facing right now because of the war,
 - 127 ii. the things that might happen if the sites aren't protected enough and a
128 treasure will be gone,
- 129 c. funding money to achieve the proposition that has been stated in clause 4,
- 130 d. opening more of the natural heritage sites to the public by turning them into
131 outdoor museums without harming the original heritage,
- 132 e. creating social-media accounts for some of the endangered cultural heritage
133 sites in order to:
 - 134 i. show to the people all around the world how beautiful the cultural herit-
135 age sites can be,
 - 136 ii. get young people to be interested in cultural heritage,
 - 137 iii. preserve the heritages beauty in photos that everybody can freely ac-
138 cess;
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- 140 **8. Encourages** governments and organizations to reach and collect people who are vol-
141 unteers to protect cultural heritage sites by:
142 a. restoring and reconstruct cultural heritage sites,
143 b. preparing shows about the issue to inform other people;
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145 **9. Decides** to remain seized of the matter.