RESOLUTION A2 (2016)


Signatories: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Chile, Republic of Ecuador, Republic of Peru, State of Israel, and United Mexican States.

Non-state Signatories: Minority Rights International, Global Heritage Fund, Greenpeace, and NGO Pathways to Peace.

The United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Viewing with appreciation that cultural and natural heritage are irreplaceable sources of wellbeing and appreciation,

Understanding that heritage preservation during conflict must go hand in hand with humanitarian assistance and efforts to restore stability to the conflict area,

Taking into consideration that the value of these sites to global and local communities makes them vulnerable to attack,

Acknowledging the threat from delegations or actors that may have negative consequences such as the case of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea toward the international community and its effect on the destruction of cultural property,

Recognizing that all countries should want to protect their cultural heritage, but state sovereignty will not be violated in efforts to cooperate with UNESCO matters,
Denouncing the use of outside military forces in combating destruction of culture within a sovereign nation

Deeply aware of the regrettable destruction of the Zigguart of Ur and threat to the Citadel Erbil, and the threats that others can pose to cultural heritage


1. **Encourages** all the delegations in this committee to protect their cultural property from hazards of all kinds such as natural, or especially provoked having as a national responsibility the duty of protecting the cultural heritage;

2. **Proposes** a special response from the UNESCO when cultural sites that are not in the list of Protected Cultural Heritage are directly attacked, specially providing assessment to their responsible government to ensure basic protection;

**Indigenous Cultures Protection**

3. **Encourages** the implementation media campaigns to enhance engagement with cultural protection and promote connection to and pride in the indigenous cultures of each country, bearing in mind:

   a. Ensuring that special representation in cultural protection plans for each country include the preservation of indigenous peoples and minorities cultures

   b. Utilizing the NGO Minority Rights International, create non-discrimination forums in museums in every country to celebrate native culture and people, as well as establish programs to revive native languages;

**Peacekeeping and Cultural Protectors**

4. **Recommends** the use of UNESCO Blue Helmets as a permanent peacekeeping cultural protection unit, but only deployed in the case of direct request of the
country experiencing conflict, and pending the approval of the United Nations Security Council;

5. Requests altering the legal framework of peacekeeping troop deployment where Blue Helmets can be sent in addition to units of peacekeeping troops;

6. Calls for use of deployed cultural blue helmets in order to train participating local communities and authorities with the tools to protect sites of cultural heritage from an internal approach, with the extraction of cultural blue helmets upon completion of training unless otherwise requested by participating nations”

Education

7. Requests the cultural education of peacekeepers sent to areas where culture is threatened, along with language training and psychological assistance to ease cultural shock by utilizing the NGO World Heritage Fund;

8. Using the World Heritage Fund, encourages cultural education in refugee camps to form a sense of respect and connection to the person’s motherland;

Illegal Trafficking

9. Requests that INTERPOL’s Stolen Works of Art Database be expanded to include all countries that experience significant cultural trafficking.

10. Implementing the Nonviolent peace forces and Unarmed civilian protection, encourages civilians as volunteers to protect cultural property, with previous reassurance that their security is guaranteed;

11. Creates an international hotline as a sub committee of INTERPOL in order to alert countries and museums about stolen artifacts as well as to promote dialogue between INTERPOL and countries that wish to report stolen cultural objects”

International Cooperation

12. Recommends the implementation of peace talks, for countries or the parts affected would have cultural attack with a mediator from UNESCO, and if the talks failed UNESCO recommends as a UN body to use the International
Court of Justice to prosecute States and the International Criminal Court to prosecute individuals;

13. Approves adopting the Safeguarding Art Project (S.A.P) with the goal of organizing volunteer projects for the restoration of damaged cultural property, and encourage collaboration among entities to generate inventories and the establishment of post–conflict recovery plans, established by art professionals protected by military units;

14. Proposes the join venture between specialized national committees, museums, NGOs and the local cultural community focused on cultural protection, to develop programs that create a physical register of non written culture, such as language recordings, videos of dance and theater, oral storytelling, etc.;

15. Supports the creation a transnational advocacy network, overseen by UNESCO, to pool the resources and expertise of volunteering NGOs and civil society actors in order to establish information sharing, transparency, funding, resources and effective crisis response¹;

Technology

16. Further suggests the proliferation of usage of the Million Image Database from the Institute of Digital Archeology;

17. Endorses the expansion of the role of peacekeepers to use technology such as 3D imaging, satellites and other cutting-edge scanning to document monuments and heritage sites in the implementation of the Protecting Memory Program."

18. Approves the creation of a free access international virtual museum that contains imagery of cultural heritage sites and most valuable cultural pieces of member States, managed by UNESCO, making sure the safety of the heritage is not endangered;

Climate and Natural Environment Concerns

19. Emphasizes the importance of every country having a designated budget in order to protect its national property as established in the Paris Protocol;

¹ Drawing attention to the fact the network will not tolerate misuse of network information, and misuse will result in the offending party being removed immediately from the network;
20. **Endorses** to develop teams of cultural heritage experts who will provide direct assistance to cultural heritage sites affected by natural disasters;

21. **Strongly recommends** that all countries adhere to protocols set forth in the Paris Protocol of 1970 in order to preserve natural environments and reduce climate effects on cultural heritage damages;

22. **Encourages** the use of UNESCO and Greenpeace experts and volunteers to protect natural heritage sites around the world;

**Repatriation and Restitution of Cultural Property**

23. **Recommends** that every nation who can historically prove that looting, robbing, and other such actions have occurred to its own population, can apply to reclaiming its cultural property from the country that has the possession;

24. **Establishes** a framework for creating dialogue between nations requesting to reclaim their culture and the institutions possessing cultural property;

**Legislation**

25. **Recommends** the implementation of national legislations or establishments of laws regarding the internal protection of cultural heritage sites, art pieces, or any other cultural properties in countries that do not count with existing laws of this kind. Existing programs include China’s Law on Protection of Cultural Relics, Venezuela’s Law of Protection and Defense of cultural heritage and Ecuador’s laws of *Buen Vivir* that protect the natural environment.

26. **Promotes** the “Healing Project” initiative which consists of a preventive measure to facilitate the future reconstruction of monuments and cultural sites with outstanding universal value that are in danger because of armed conflicts and non-conflict threats guided by the principles of The Venice Charter for Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites.

27. **Explains** “Healing Project” initiative’s core activities as an insurance for the cultural heritage of a Nation through records and tools developed to rebuild completely or partially man-made and mixed monuments/cultural sites which are damaged or affected by armed violence, considering the following:
28. Offers the creation of a technologic mobile application called “Heritapp” in order to generate awareness regarding cultural heritage, developed by UNESCO’s Science & Technology division through the following:
   a. Providing information regarding the importance of monuments and historical facts,
   b. Offering applications for volunteering opportunities in this field,
   c. Creating a community of users for interaction,

29. Requests that the international community set up a global concert series showcasing the folklore and indigenous music of nations as an intangible form of culture, is around the world for an entrance fee that will go to the UNESCO Heritage Fund, specifically earmarked for helping indigenous communities preserve and promote their unique cultures;

30. Requests financing from individual nation states, private companies, NGO’s, the International Council of Museums, and charities, completing the grant request processes for all programs contained in this resolution, but specifically the Healing Project;

31. Calls upon all UNESCO’s countries to look at the possibility of creating an “art and culture risk” index, being a number from one to zero that measures art’s risk level in specific geographic zones in order for the Executive Board to have a reference towards decision making”.

32. Reaffirming resolution 2199’s points (15, 16 and 17) on illicit trade of cultural heritage items will be extrapolated to affect all occurrences of harm to cultural heritage, not only those dealing with groups related to Al-Qaeda;

33. Further invites UNESCO’s top scientists to look into the usefulness of bunkers in cases of classic warfare and high-tech bunkers in cases of nuclear warfare;

34. Decides to remain seized of the matter.