

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY
IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL
PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters

15 – 16 December 2022

Item 7 of the provisional agenda:

Protection of cultural property in Ukraine

Pursuant to Decision 2 EXT.COM 4, this document presents information on the implemented, ongoing and planned actions by the Secretariat to reinforce the protection of cultural property in Ukraine.

The information covers the period from 24 February to 30 November 2022.

This document is cross-referenced with document C54/22/17.COM/12 (Report on the implementation of international assistance granted to Barbados, Burkina Faso, Mexico and Ukraine).

Draft Decision: 17.COM 7, see paragraph 28

Introduction

1. The Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (hereinafter “the Committee”), at its 2nd extraordinary meeting (UNESCO, 18 March 2022), adopted Decision [2 EXT.COM 4](#), entitled “Emergency international assistance to Ukraine”, requested the Secretariat to provide all necessary assistance in the implementation of emergency measures within the framework of the 1999 Second Protocol and to report back to the Committee at its 17th meeting in 2022.
2. Following the above-mentioned decision and referencing document 215 EX/5.I.F submitted to the 215th session of the Executive Board and its decision¹, this document presents updated information on the implemented, ongoing and planned actions by UNESCO to reinforce the protection of cultural property in Ukraine within the framework of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.
3. The information contained in the document covers the period from 24 February to 30 November 2022.
4. The document is divided into four parts: (i) monitoring and assessment of the impact of the war on cultural property in Ukraine, (ii) coordination of the international response, (iii) international assistance in the implementation of emergency measures within the framework of the 1999 Second Protocol, and (iv) way forward.
5. This document is cross-referenced with document C54/22/17.COM/12 (Report on the implementation of international assistance granted to Barbados, Burkina Faso, Mexico and Ukraine).

I. Monitoring and assessment of the impact of the war on cultural property in Ukraine

6. Since 24 February last, UNESCO has undertaken the daily verification and documentation of damage to cultural sites, including museums and cultural institutions, in order to monitor the impact of the war following the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on cultural property and to prepare for the recovery phase. As of 30 November 2022, UNESCO has recorded damages to on 222 cultural sites (99 religious sites, 17 museums, 78 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 18 monuments, 10 libraries).
7. The Cultural Heritage Monitoring Platform was developed as a pilot tool, in partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT, to georeference and visualize the results of the monitoring and assessment of damages to cultural sites in Ukraine.
8. The Platform presents an overview of the scope of the damages to cultural property on the territory of Ukraine, including the latest figures published by UNESCO, statistics by region and by types of cultural property. It also contains data on 20 cultural properties, including 6 World Heritage properties and 14 Tentative List sites, as well as 6 historic city centres (Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Mariupol, and Odesa) monitored through satellite imagery. It presents an analysis with “before” and “after” satellite imagery for each site.
9. The results of the assessment are published weekly on the UNESCO “War in Ukraine” [webpage](#).
10. Monitoring and assessment of the impact of the armed conflict on cultural heritage of Ukraine by UNESCO is financed from the Post-Conflict and Post Disaster (PCPD) account for the protection of cultural heritage in Ukraine, a pooled funding to which Denmark, the Government of Flanders (Belgium), Ireland, Japan and Switzerland contributed.
11. From 6 to 11 July 2022, UNESCO dispatched a mission to Ukraine to consolidate an initial assessment of the impact of the war on Ukraine’s culture sector, coordinate the Organization’s support in this field with the government authorities and partners, and define priorities for recovery and reconstruction. The mission visited Kyiv and Lviv, observed

¹ See Document [215 EX/5.I.F](#)

damages to several cultural sites, as well as monitored different protection measures undertaken by cultural institutions.

II. Coordination of the international response and technical assistance to Ukraine

12. The Secretariat has been mobilized to coordinate international responses and provide the necessary technical advice to the relevant authorities and cultural institutions in Ukraine in ensuring the protection of cultural heritage.
13. In this context, a series of activities, noted below, were undertaken, in line with the relevant Culture Conventions including the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols.
14. Two meetings of international partners, on 17 March and 12 May 2022, were convened by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy. The meetings brought together over 25 key international partners and aimed to exchange information and streamline efforts to protect and safeguard culture in Ukraine in all its forms.
15. With a view to facilitating the recognition of cultural property in the course of military operations, technical advice has been provided by UNESCO to the Government of Ukraine on the marking of cultural sites. As a result, cultural properties in Ukraine were marked with the distinctive *Blue Shield* emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention, including at the World Heritage properties of “Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” and “L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre”, as well as over 50 cultural sites in Odesa, a site on the Tentative List of Ukraine.
16. UNESCO established frameworks for the provision of technical advice and expertise to the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy as well as culture professionals, namely (i) the UNESCO Cultural Emergencies Expert Group, composed of experts from 10 international institutions² and (ii) the UNESCO Emergency Group for Museums in Ukraine, which brings together 13 directors from major museums and institutions.³
17. In this vein, the UNESCO-ICCROM publication “Endangered heritage: emergency evacuation of heritage collections” was translated into Ukrainian and made available online. 2,000 copies were printed and distributed in areas with limited internet access in Ukraine.
18. Three online workshops were organized by UNESCO, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, for museums and heritage professionals, on 16 September, 3 October and 28 October 2022. In total, over 720 participants participated in the workshops, which discussed concrete safeguarding measures for museums and collections in view of the winter season; protection of documentary heritage and practical measures for the fight against illicit trafficking; and alternative preventive conservation techniques.
19. To support the revival of institutional capacity of cultural institutions and cultural education, UNESCO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, and in close partnership with the City Council of L'viv, launched a project “Culture for Peace and Resilience: Creation of a Culture Hub in L'viv, Ukraine”. The project, financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), was developed under the UNESCO Programme “Heritage for Peace” and builds on all the UNESCO Culture Conventions. The establishment of the Culture Hub in Lviv will serve as a platform for a series of capacity-building activities in the field of culture for government actors at all levels, culture professionals, stakeholders and communities. The Culture Hub will be a unique venue, conceptualized in a participatory manner to serve as a

² Blue Shield International, International Council of Archives (ICA), ICCROM, ICOM, ICOMOS, IFLA, Smithsonian Institute, UNITAR/UNOSAT, CRAterre and World Monuments Fund.

³ British Museum (UK); Lithuania National Museum of Art (Lithuania); Louvre Museum (France); National Museum Poznan (Poland); National Museum of Sweden (Sweden); Metropolitan Museum of Art (USA); Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Germany); Polish Center to safeguard Ukrainian Cultural Heritage (Poland); Rijksmuseum of Netherlands (the Netherlands); Smithsonian Institution (USA); Slovak National Gallery (Slovakia); Swiss National Museum (Switzerland) and Uffizi Gallery (Italy).

centre of excellence for capacity-building in the field of culture and cultural policy research. It will also support the resilience and recovery of communities, including by supporting the return of displaced culture professionals, in line with the Ukraine National Recovery Plan.

III. International assistance in the implementation of emergency measures within the framework of the 1999 Second Protocol

20. In the context of UNESCO's wider emergency support to Ukraine, the Secretariat provided advisory assistance to the Ukrainian authorities for establishing a task-force and emergency teams responsible for cultural property protection, as well as for the creation of *ad hoc* infrastructures and organization of adequate *in situ* protection.
21. On 1 August 2022, a pilot project was launched in Odesa, with financial support from the Heritage Emergency Fund⁴ and in partnership with the Museum for Change, a Ukrainian non-governmental organization. In the first phase of the project⁵, the following activities were undertaken:
 - Technical and material support provided to Odesa Regional Administration for *in situ* protection of cultural property. In the course of this activity, to date, fire extinguishers (40), fireproof fabric (10), gas masks (85), over 1000 acid-free packing materials and papers, chemical protection suits (10) have been delivered to the local authorities of Odesa, which were distributed to cultural institutions.
 - The protection of public monuments and cultural institutions against the effects of explosions. In this context, protective installations were placed on five public monuments, and the windows of the Odesa Fine Arts Museum and Odesa Maritime Museum were covered with wooden shields.
 - The damaged historic roof and windows of the Odesa Fine Arts Museum were restored.
 - 54 cultural sites in the city center were marked with the distinctive *Blue Shield* emblems to facilitate their identification.
 - Over 1000 objects in the Odesa Fine Arts Museum and Museum of Modern Art of Odesa were digitized and security of objects against looting reinforced through the recruitment of additional security personnel.
22. The preparation of the second phase of the project in Odesa, with the scope of support extended to other cultural institutions is underway.
23. On 30 August last, the Assistant Director-General for Culture and the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine signed a letter of intent, noting UNESCO's commitment to cooperating with Ukraine in the following areas:
 - monitoring, assessment, and documentation of damages to cultural heritage;
 - reconstruction and recovery of cultural heritage;
 - revival of institutional capacity of cultural institutions and cultural education;
 - strengthening cultural and creative industries;
 - strengthening resilience through culture;
 - digital transformation of cultural heritage management, developing of digital infrastructure, creation of digital cultural heritage inventories for integration and interoperability with international databases.

⁴ The donors of the Heritage Emergency Fund, as of 17 November 2022: the Qatar Fund for Development, Canada, Norway, France, Monaco, ANA Holdings INC, Estonia, The Netherlands, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Andorra, and Serbia

⁵ The first phase of the project was implemented between 1 August – 19 November 2019.

24. In the follow-up to the letter of intent, cultural sites and institutions most at risk due to the winter season were identified by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine. UNESCO has begun to undertake needs assessments at the identified sites, in order to undertake emergency protective works.
25. The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy also provided UNESCO with a list of urgently needed equipment and materials for the protection of cultural property. UNESCO launched a call for support among its institutional partners to support Ukraine in addressing these needs.
26. UNESCO also facilitated the transportation of a high-resolution scanner for books, manuscripts and archives, donated by Austria to the National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra', one of the components of the World Heritage property in Kyiv in line with Article 33 of the 1999 Second Protocol. The equipment will allow Ukrainian specialists to accelerate the digitization of documentary cultural heritage at the site.

IV. Way forward

27. The list of planned/proposed actions for Ukraine, covering the period until the end of 2023, has been presented to the Executive Board, in document [215 EX/5.I.F.](#) As the needs on the ground are constantly changing, UNESCO, in line with its mandate and available resources, will continue to adjust its response to ensure the effective protection of cultural property in line with the UN Transitional Framework for Ukraine and the draft Ukraine National Recovery Plan. In this regard, the provision of emergency technical and material support, reinforcement of capacities, including of the members of the armed forces, assessment of damages to prepare the ground for recovery, as well as coordination of international efforts in addressing the impact of the war on cultural heritage in Ukraine, will continue to be the main lines of action, in the context of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.
28. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM 7

The Committee,

1. Having examined document C54/22/17.COM/7,
2. Recalling its Decision 2 EXT.COM 4,
3. Expresses its deep concern regarding the impact of the ongoing war on the culture sector in Ukraine;
4. Takes note of the comprehensive report provided by UNESCO on its support for the protection of cultural property in Ukraine;
5. Invites States Parties to contribute financially and in-kind to the protection, safeguarding and recovery of cultural heritage in times of conflict, which would allow enhancing UNESCO's action in Ukraine;
6. Requests the Secretariat to continue providing all the necessary assistance to Ukraine in the implementation of emergency measures, within the framework of the 1999 Second Protocol and to report back to the Committee at its 18th meeting in 2023.