

**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
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**

15 – 16 December 2022

Item 12 of the provisional agenda:

**Report on the implementation of international assistance granted to Barbados,
Burkina Faso, Mexico and Ukraine under the Fund for the Protection of
Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**

Pursuant to Decisions 16 COM 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 (2021) and 2 EXT.COM 4 (2022), this document presents a report on the implementation of international assistance granted to Barbados, Burkina Faso, Mexico and Ukraine under the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Draft Decision: 17.COM 12, see paragraphs 9, 17, 24, 31.

Introduction

1. At its 14th (UNESCO, 2019), and 15th (UNESCO, 2020) meetings, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict ("the Committee") granted financial international assistance from the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict ("the Fund") respectively to Burkina Faso ([Decision 14.COM 7](#)), Barbados and Mexico ([Decision 15.COM 9](#)) to implement preparatory measures for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. At its Second Extraordinary Meeting (UNESCO, 2022), the Committee granted Ukraine an emergency international assistance from the Fund ([Decision 2 EXT.COM 4](#)), to assist the country in the adoption of emergency measures for the protection of cultural property.
2. In accordance with [Decisions 16 COM 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4](#) (UNESCO, 2021) and [2 EXT.COM 4](#) (UNESCO, 2022) adopted by the Committee, this document presents a progress report on the implementation of the international financial assistance granted to Barbados, Burkina Faso, Mexico and Ukraine under the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.
3. At its 13th meeting (UNESCO, 2018) and by its [Decision 13.COM 8](#), the Committee approved the application from Afghanistan for international assistance under the Fund for the amount of USD 45,000 to support preparatory measures for activities in line with Articles 5 (safeguarding cultural property) and 30 (dissemination) of the 1999 Second Protocol. However, considering the institutional and security situation in Afghanistan, the Committee decided, by its [Decision 16 COM 7.1](#) (UNESCO, 2021), to temporarily suspend the international assistance project in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has, therefore, not been included in this working document.

I. Barbados

Background

4. The Committee, at its 15th meeting (UNESCO, 2020), granted Barbados international assistance under the Fund for an amount of USD 46,000 for a project aiming to strengthen and protect the cultural property of Barbados through the digitization and conservation of documents from the slavery period. The Committee also requested the State Party to develop a general contingency plan and guidelines to mitigate the foreseeable effects of armed conflict.¹
5. As reported in 2021², the implementation of the project was significantly and severely impacted by two natural disasters that occurred in Barbados in 2021: the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, which ashes affected Barbados, and Hurricane Elsa, as well as with the current global context due to pandemic-related restrictions and staff unavailability.
6. In 2021, the Committee, at its 16th meeting (UNESCO, 2021), took note of the progress reports transmitted by the State Party on 17 and 29 September 2021, and the reasons for the delay in the implementation of the project, encouraged the Barbados authorities to continue their efforts to implement the activities under the granted financial assistance and requested the State Party to submit to the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the [Guidelines](#), a report on the implementation of the assistance, for consideration by the Committee at its 17th meeting in 2022.³

Progress report

7. In accordance with Decision [16.COM 7.3](#), the Secretariat and the UNESCO Office in Kingston have jointly assisted the authorities in resolving administrative constraints in view of signing a financial allocation contract for the amount of USD 46,000 with the newly established Division of Culture of the Prime Minister's Office (formerly the Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports of Barbados) for the implementation of the activities over an 11-months' period. The signature of the contract is still pending.
8. In response to the Secretariat's letter of 29 September 2022, the national authorities informed, on 15 October 2022, of their request to amend the content of the project requesting that the purchasing of the Epson Workforce DS-70,000 sheet fed scanner be replaced by the digitization of additional material (the Liberal Newspaper 1837-1859; the Times Newspaper 1863-1895; the 1891 Census; and the Estates in Chancery).
9. In view of the above, the Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM.12.1

The Committee,

1. Having examined document C54/22/17.COM/12;

¹ See [Decision 15.COM 9](#)

² See Document [C54/21/16.COM/7](#)

³ See Decision [16.COM 7.3](#)

2. Recalling Decision 15.COM 9, adopted at its 15th meeting in 2020;
3. Regrets that the implementation of the project has significantly been delayed;
4. Approves the request of the State Party to replace the purchasing of the scanner by digitization of additional material;
5. Invites the State Party to complete the process of signing the financial allocation contract and encourages Barbados authorities to continue their efforts to implement the activities under the granted financial assistance;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the Guidelines, a progress report on the implementation of the assistance, for consideration by the Committee at its 18th meeting in 2023.

II. Burkina Faso

Background

10. In 2019, the Committee, at its 14th meeting (UNESCO, 2019) and by its [Decision 14.COM 7](#), approved the application from Burkina Faso for international assistance from the Fund for an amount of USD 44,628 for the adoption of preparatory measures.
11. As reported in 2021⁴, several milestones were achieved during that year, notably the development of an action plan, the organization of an awareness-raising workshop, and the drafting of a specific law on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.
12. In 2021, the Committee, at its 16th meeting (UNESCO, 2021), took note of the progress report transmitted by the State Party and encouraged Burkina Faso to continue its efforts to implement the activities under the granted financial assistance and requested the State Party to submit to the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the Guidelines, a report on the implementation of the assistance, for consideration by the Committee at its 17th meeting in 2022.⁵

Progress report

13. During the reporting period, significant progress has been achieved, despite some internal difficulties, in implementing fieldwork and activities for the development of nomination files for the granting of enhanced protection. This resulted in the preparation of a total of seven nomination files for the following cultural properties: the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Ouagadougou, the Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Yagma, Sya, the historic center of Bobo-Dioulasso, the National Museum of Burkina Faso, the Ruins of Loropéni, the Royal Court of Tiébélé, and the ancient iron metallurgy sites of Burkina Faso. The nomination requests have been validated by the committee in charge of the preparation of the files and submitted for final approval by the relevant national authorities.
14. The legal chapter on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict has been integrated into the revision of the framework law n°024-2007/AN of 13 November 2007 on the protection of cultural heritage in Burkina Faso. To date, the draft law has been validated by the Technical Committee for the Validation of Preliminary Draft Laws (COTEVAL) and has been transmitted to the Council of Ministers before being submitted to the National Assembly for adoption. The adoption of the law is expected by the end of 2022.
15. The project, implemented in close coordination with the UNESCO Office in Dakar, has had a good media coverage thanks to the communication support. A web news regarding the nominations for enhanced protection was published on the UNESCO [webpage](#) and multiple articles were released in the local press.
16. On 16 November 2022, the State Party submitted, in line with Decision 16.COM 7.2 of the Committee and paragraph 141 of the Guidelines, a final narrative and financial report on the implementation of this international assistance.
17. In view of the above, the Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

⁴ See Document [C54/21/16.COM/7](#)

⁵ See Decision [16.COM 7.2](#)

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM 12.2

The Committee,

1. Having examined document C54/22/17.COM/12;
2. Recalling its Decision 14.COM 7 adopted at its 14th meeting in 2019;
3. Congratulates the State Party for the completion of all activities under the international assistance, including the preparation of a specific draft law on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, as well as in the preparation of requests to inscribe seven cultural properties of Burkina Faso on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection;
4. Encourages the State Party to adopt all relevant measures and submit the requests of seven cultural properties : (i) The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Ouagadougou, (ii) the Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Yagma, (iii) Sya, the historic center of Bobo-Dioulasso, (iv) the National Museum of Burkina Faso, (v) the Ruins of Loropéni, (vi) the Royal Court of Tiébélé, and (vii) the ancient iron metallurgy sites of Burkina Faso, for their possible inscription on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection.

III. Mexico

Background

18. The Committee, at its 15th meeting (UNESCO, 2020) and by its Decision [15.COM 9](#), approved the request from Mexico for international assistance under the Fund for an amount of USD 44,400 to develop a comprehensive risk management plan for the National Museum of Anthropology, with a view to submitting a request for the inscription of this site on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection.
19. As reported in 2021⁶, the national authorities developed a concrete roadmap, including a process of national consultations, as well as a detailed work plan and a schedule of activities to be implemented, together with a budget estimate.
20. In 2021, the Committee, at its 16th meeting (UNESCO, 2021), took note of the progress report transmitted by the State Party, congratulated Mexico on the progress made and encouraged Mexico to continue their efforts to implement the activities under the granted financial assistance and requested the State Party to submit to the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the Guidelines, a report on the implementation of the assistance, for consideration by the Committee at its 17th meeting in 2022.⁷

Progress Report

21. On 28 February 2022, the national authorities submitted the "Nomination of the National Museum of Anthropology for its inscription on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection of the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict". The Secretariat reviewed the completeness of this document according to the requirements of the 1999 Second Protocol and its Guidelines and requested the national authorities to finalize and complete this submission in view of its presentation to the Committee at its 17th meeting. On 1 July 2022, the authorities of Mexico forwarded to the Secretariat their updated nomination form that was deemed complete by the Secretariat. On 19 September 2022, the Bureau of the Committee, following its *prima facie* evaluation of the request, recommended its approval by the Committee.⁸
22. The National Museum of Anthropology submitted, on 19 May 2022, a draft risk management plan and a second narrative report on the execution of the activities, including the preliminary conclusion of risk assessment and the risk analysis.
23. On 15 September 2022, the National Museum of Anthropology completed all the activities under the international assistance and submitted the "Comprehensive Risk Management Plan for the National Museum Anthropology", as well as photographs of the National Museum of Anthropology Complex in high resolution and working materials. Moreover, in line with Decision [16.COM 7.4](#), the State Party submitted to the Secretariat a final narrative report on "Phase 5: Risk Prevention, Response and Recovery Strategies" as well as a complete financial report on the assistance.

⁶ See Document [C54/21/16.COM/7](#)

⁷ See Decision [16.COM 7.2](#)

⁸ See document [C54/22/17COM/17](#)

24. In view of the above, the Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM 12.3

The Committee,

1. Having examined document C54/22/17.COM/12;
2. Recalling Decision 15.COM 9 adopted at its 15th meeting;
3. Congratulates the State Party for the completion of all activities under the international assistance and submission of the final report, including the request for the inscription of the National Museum of Anthropology on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, as well as the “Comprehensive Risk Management Plan for the National Museum Anthropology”;
4. Encourages the Mexican authorities to continue their efforts in implementing the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, including identifying and nominating other sites of greatest importance for inscription on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection.

IV. Ukraine

Background

25. On 16 March 2022, Ukraine submitted a request for an emergency international assistance under the Fund, in order to implement emergency measures under paragraph 173 of the Guidelines.
26. After examining the request, the Committee, at its Second Extraordinary Meeting (UNESCO, 2022) and by its [Decision 2 EXT.COM 4](#), approved the request for emergency international assistance under the Fund for an amount of USD 50,000 to implement the following activities:
 - Establishment of an operational task-force responsible for implementation of all emergency measures,
 - Marking of cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage and Tentative Lists and other valuable cultural properties,
 - Establishment and operation of *ad hoc* infrastructures, including refugees,
 - Removal of movable cultural property and adequate *in situ* protection of such property,
 - Compilation of national inventories of cultural property.
27. By the same decision, the Committee also requested the Secretariat to provide all necessary assistance in the implementation of the emergency measures, within the framework of the 1999 Second Protocol and report back to the Committee at its 17th meeting in 2022.

Progress Report

28. While the signature of a contract to transfer the amount of USD 50,000 to the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine was difficult, for administrative reasons, due to the ongoing war, the Secretariat has provided technical advice 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. Moreover, compilation of national inventories of cultural property was included as a part of monitoring activity implemented with funding from the PCPD fund.
29. On 30 August 2022, a letter of intent was signed between UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine aiming at reinforcing collaboration in several areas, including the monitoring of damages and the reconstruction and recovery of cultural heritage. The Secretariat developed and implemented, in close coordination with the relevant Ukrainian authorities and thanks to the financial support from numerous States Parties and donors, multiple activities assisting multiple entities in the country, notably museum institutions, to protect cultural property against negative impact of armed conflict. Detailed report on all activities conducted since 24 February 2022 is provided in Document C54/22/17COM/7.⁹
30. On 17 November 2022, during a working meeting, the Ukrainian authorities informed the Secretariat of their wish to use the funds for other priorities, including for purchasing supplies to protect cultural property during the winter season.

⁹ See Document C54/22/17COM/7

31. Taking into account that the previously planned emergency activities under the international assistance could be considered as implemented or ongoing using other financial and technical resources, the Committee may wish to reallocate USD 50,000 for purchasing and shipping, by the Secretariat, supplies to protect cultural property in Ukraine and to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM 12.4

The Committee,

1. Having examined document C54/22/17.COM/12;
2. Recalling its Decision 2 EXT.COM 4 adopted at its Second Extraordinary meeting in 2022;
3. Takes note that emergency measures planned under the international assistance are financed with extrabudgetary funds and approves reallocation of the USD 50,000 for purchasing and shipping, by the Secretariat, of equipment to protect cultural property in Ukraine;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to protect cultural property and requests the Secretariat to continue providing all necessary assistance in the implementation of the emergency measures, within the framework of the 1999 Second Protocol and report back to the Committee at its 18th meeting in 2023.