



Extraordinary meeting

C54/23/3.EXT.COM/5
Paris, 7 September 2023
Original: English/French

3rd EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UKRAINE

The Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict,

Deeply deploring the lives threatened and lost during the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine,

Expressing solidarity with the people of Ukraine,

Being gravely concerned about the preservation of cultural heritage in Ukraine during the on-going Russian full-scale war against Ukraine,

Recalling UNESCO's standard setting instruments for the protection of cultural heritage, particularly the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, the 1972 World Heritage Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, as well as the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Emphasizing one of the fundamental principles of the Preamble of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict providing

of the world,

Recalling UN Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) affirming that directing unlawful attacks against sites and buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, or historical monuments may constitute, under certain circumstances and pursuant to international law a war crime and that perpetrators of such attacks must be brought to justice,

Recalling UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 on "Aggression against Ukraine",

Recalling further UN General Assembly Resolution A/76/16, of 8 December 2021, expressing deep concern about the loss, destruction, theft, pillage, illicit removal or misappropriation and illegal export of cultural property from archaeological sites, museums, libraries, archives and other sites and any acts of vandalism or damage directed

against cultural property, in particular in areas of armed conflict, including territories that are occupied, whether such armed conflicts are international or non-international,

Bearing in mind the UNESCO Declaration of 2003 concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session,

Recalling its Declaration C54/22/2.EXT.COM/3 on the protection of cultural heritage in Ukraine, adopted at its 2nd extraordinary meeting on 18 March 2022, and its respective decisions adopted at the same meeting, as well as its decisions on Ukraine adopted at its 17th meeting, on 15-16 December 2022,

Noting with deep concern that as of 6 September 2023, UNESCO has verified damage to 287 sites since 24 February 2022 - 120 religious sites, 27 museums, 107 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 19 monuments, 13 libraries, 1 Archive.

Recalling that, in the event of armed conflict, the strengthened protection to cultural property under enhanced protection is ensured through the higher level of immunity than other cultural property under general protection, and that, pursuant to Article 15 of the 1999 Second Protocol, acts committed by any person to intentionally make cultural property under enhanced protection the object of attack or to use cultural property under enhanced protection or its immediate surroundings in support of military action can be classified as serious violations of the international law,

Welcoming the decision of the World Heritage Committee to inscribe the Historic Center of Odesa on the World Heritage List according to the emergency procedure and on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Tserkva of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Potelych-Tserkva of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Nyzhniy Verbizh-Tserkva of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Matkiv-Tserkva