

## Draft Resolution 1

**Topic:** The Trafficking of Antiquities in Conflict Zones

**Sponsors :** United Mexican States, Germany, New Zealand, The United States, Yemen

**Signatories :** Brazil, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Ireland, Japan, Poland, Syria , South Korea, Malaysia, Libya, Indonesia, Italy, Eritrea, Estonia, Vanuatu

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Alarmed by* the outstanding financial benefit earned by the Islamic State and other terrorist organisations by trafficking antiquities in conflict zones,

*Noting with deep concern* that the trafficking of antiquities is one of the main sources of income for terrorist organizations and therefore helps keep alive these types of organizations,

*Reminding all* countries about the importance of their cultures for their people's identity, unity and sovereignty,

*Recognizing* the existence of the Fund of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation, set up by the *1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*,

*Further recognizing* the existence of the The Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, set up by the *1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*,

*Noting with satisfaction* that many private companies, such as the British Council's 30 million pound fund involvements, have been launched for the preservation of endangered antiquities in conflict zones,

*Drawing* the attention to the recurring lack of protection and oversight of archeological sites, which puts at risk artefacts that have yet to be revealed or documented,

*Expressing its appreciation* of the precedent UNESCO move concerning the cataloging of the immovable antiquities by sending 5000 cameras on-site,

*Bearing in mind* that supply-driven and demand-driven countries must collaborate in order to come to a solution for this problem,

*Calling upon* the international and unlimited use of already existing database of antiquities such as ICOM's Red Lists,

*Recognizing* the existence of the INTERPOL Database of Stolen Works of Art that allows government authorities and authorized institutions to access this database,

*Emphasizing* the importance of airports and maritime ports as trafficking routes for antiquities, and reminding of the key role played by customs at these locations in the interception of trafficked antiquities before they reach the market state,

*Reminding* states of their obligation to repatriate trafficked artefacts to their country of origin,

1. *Encourages* a visible involvement of all Member States' museums in general documentation through:
  - a. Marketing of the ICOM (International Council of Museums) Red Lists to all judicial courts and to every custom of the countries,
  - b. Sending museums monthly updates on missing antiquities accompanied by their photograph,
  - c. Museum Stewardship Programmes, working together with the International Council of Museums and national museum associations, to create guidelines for all museums, particularly in developed countries, for the purchasing and verification of antiquities from vulnerable regions,
  - d. Raising awareness in the public opinion by exposing the consequences of trafficking in conflict zones by:
    - i. Advertising in appropriate locations the threat of antiquities trafficking,
    - ii. Establishing a social media campaign directed to the youth, using #SaveOurCulture, or #SOC, mainly composed of published visuals, in which youth and other enthusiasts can share pictures of their favourite cultural heritage sites or antiquities and use the hashtag #SaveOurCulture to raise awareness of the prevalence and importance of cultural heritage,
    - iii. Initiating a campaign to make people more aware of the severe consequences both legal, cultural and historical ramifications, to discourage antique trafficking at all stages,
    - iv. Utilising equipment such as the 5,000 3D-cameras which have already been sent to Syria to create virtual reality tours and videos for the immovable artifacts both in danger and not, such as temples or monuments;
2. *Urges* countries to recognise and make use of the established methods of repatriating trafficked artefacts, namely the ICOM-WIPO Art and Cultural Heritage Mediation process;
3. *Proposes* to tackle the problem of identification by ensuring that documentation about the provenance of the artefact is accessible to all countries without any restriction;
4. *Calls upon* more stringent protection of archeological sites, preventing looting from individuals and groups in order to:

- a. Ensure that artefacts unrevealed, unknown and undocumented will not be dispersed around the art market;
  - b. Protect the culture and heritage ownership of the concerned countries, such as Syria and Iraq;
5. Asks for, in order to effectively apply Clause 4, the introduction of a code of conduct or adaptation of the rules of engagement regarding the protection of cultural heritage in conflict zones by:
  - a. Adapting the code of conduct to each individual country according to their needs, legal traditions, and jurisdiction;
  - b. Ensuring special attention to collateral damage and the protection of the archaeological sites;
  - c. Involving war reporters already part of the army to take pictures and record locations, furthering the work of the 5,000 cameras sent by the UNESCO;
6. Encourages all states to ratify the existing Conventions of UNESCO in 1970 and the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen and Illegally Exported Cultural Objects in 1995 in order to tackle the issue of antiquities trafficking globally;
7. Insists on the need for optimization and extension of the INTERPOL Database of Stolen Works of Art in which supply- and demand-driven countries work together to catalogue all global uncovered antiquities in order to:
  - a. Ensure prevention of possible future trafficking of artifacts;
  - b. Create a system that matches goods looted from their original states with goods that crossed the borders of supply-driven countries;
  - c. Help demand-driven countries identify and seize looted artifacts when they enter their territories;
  - d. Extend the focus of the database from only including stolen works of art to include any type of antiquities or artifacts;
  - e. Extend the list of authorized users to include:
    - i. Auction houses;
    - ii. National and regional museums;
8. Suggests that the extended INTERPOL database be created by, but not limited to:
  - a. Assisting museums, archeological sites, private collectors etc. in providing descriptions, distinctive characteristics, measures and photographs for every artifact;
  - b. Calling on experts to assist the electronic security of this database;
  - c. Creating and distributing government-issued certificates for legally acquired antiquities;
9. Encourages the establishment of a system similar to that of the Kimberley Process governing the trafficking of blood diamonds to offer warranties to participating countries, namely:
  - a. Shipments of antiquities crossing international borders transported in tamper-resistant containers,
  - b. Accompany these antiquities with a certificate that is:
    - i. Resistant to forgery,

- ii. A description of the shipment,
  - c. Only exporting with countries that have also ratified the system,
  - d. With the goal of eradicating the use of these antiquities to finance any terrorist/rebel activities with the aim of overthrowing a UN-recognized government;
- 10. Suggests addressing the problem of interception by:
  - a. Working with experts to create a current list of countries considered at higher risk for trafficking,
  - b. Enforcing rigorous custom controls for artefacts originating from countries on the list mentioned above,
  - c. Introducing import restriction into certain types of archeological and ethnological materials,
  - d. Encouraging nations in the Schengen zone, to develop a more informed method of ensuring there are strong controls on the importation of artefacts from one nation within the zone to another;
- 11. Urges all members who have in the past paid undue consideration to their internal art markets, to the possible detriment of the cultural heritage of mankind, to reinforce their attention to the issues described in this resolution;
- 12. Proposes the creation of an international task force under UNESCO, with the cooperation of INTERPOL, with the aim of studying and mapping transnational trafficking networks to understand their operation in order to best combat global trafficking by:
  - a. Employing a cross-disciplinary approach to the investigating of criminal organisations which take part in the looting, stealing, trafficking and selling of antiquities,
  - b. Attempt to create definitional clarity on what exactly entails organised crime;
  - c. Training of pluridisciplinary experts, including, but not limited to, archaeologists, economists, criminologists and law enforcement officers,
  - d. Publish their findings in yearly research reports;
- 13. Proposes the establishment of a convention that explicitly protects the right of the cultural, indigenous artifacts on the basis of Article 12 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in order to appropriately represent and protect the identity of these cultural minorities groups;
- 14. Recommends calling on the Legal Committee of the United Nations to suggest legal frameworks to be implemented in each state in order to regulate the treatment and punishment of persons and institutions involved in the trafficking of artefacts;
- 15. Endorses the creation of an International Certificate of Origin, to be distributed by the Cultural Ministry or equivalent institution of each nation, to accompany each imported artefact, without which the import of the artefact will not be legally recognised;
- 16. Insists on the support and public engagement of protection in Syria, Iraq and other regions by the concerned populations on-site;

17. Further insists on foreseeing the future issues that the culture reconstruction of these conflict zones will have upon the concerned countries, already;
18. Proposes an update of the Enhanced Protection List in the Second Protocol of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention 1954 to include countries that are currently in conflict zones;