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| Conclusions and Recommendations |
| 9th International Symposium on the Theft of and Illicit Traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiques  **Lyon, France, 11-13 March 2015** |

The 9th International Symposium on the Theft of and Illicit Traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiques, Lyon, France, 11 - 13 March 2015,

**AWARE** of the importance of cultural heritage to all societies, as an essential component of the cultural identity of nations and of social cohesion,

**MINDFUL** of the risks of damage, destruction and loss to which works of art, cultural property and antiques are exposed while being looted and illegally traded,

**CONVINCED** that the current situation in countries and regions affected by civil unrest, armed conflicts, terrorist activities and natural disasters poses both a short-term risk of illicit trafficking in unlawfully removed cultural property and a long-term threat of cultural cleansing,

**EXPRESSING** serious concern, as noted in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), that ISIL, ANF and other individuals and terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida are generating income from engaging directly or indirectly in the looting and smuggling of cultural heritage items from archaeological sites and cultural places in Iraq and Syria in particular,

**RECOGNIZING** the need for harmonization of laws across jurisdictions and efficient international legal instruments for the protection of cultural heritage,

**RECOGNIZING** the specific nature of the skills and knowledge necessary for an effective fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property, and that such trafficking is often linked to other forms of crime,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the lack of international standards regarding the precise documentation of cultural heritage assets,

**DEEMING** that such a set of skills and knowledge cannot be obtained exclusively through established law enforcement training programmes and channels,

**TAKING NOTE** of the benefits of mechanisms for the rapid and secure exchange of information on illicit trafficking of cultural property, art theft and forgery cases on an international level,

**CONSIDERING** that technological advances allow for ease of access to websites embracing the specific elements involved in countering theft of and illicit trafficking in works of art, cultural property and antiques,

**RECOMMENDS that member countries:**

(1) **Systematically supply the INTERPOL General Secretariat with sufficiently detailed information** on art theft, forgery and counterfeit cases and other criminal cases concerning cultural property, using a harmonized and collaborative data reporting mechanism, in order to facilitate intelligence analysis, and regularly update INTERPOL’s stolen works of art database;

(2) **Collect national statistics on cultural property crimes** and forward them to the INTERPOL General Secretariat in order to conduct a global threat and risk assessment of the illicit trade in cultural property for its Member States;

(3) **Conduct due diligence checks** for cultural items of doubtful origin found or offered for sale, particularly against the INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art database, and promote public online access to the database for other bodies and entities dealing with the protection or sale of such property;

(4) **Agree upon a universal set of classification criteria**, given the detailed and unique nature of the illegally traded antiques and cultural property;

(5) **Provide information to the existing platform of the ICOM International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods** in order to strengthen coordination between the various stakeholders engaged in the field, including law enforcement, judiciary, academia, antiques dealers, auction houses, museums, NGOs, the private sector and civil society;

(6) **Organize specialized training sessions**, at the national and international level, on combating illicit trafficking in cultural property and related crimes with the assistance of bodies and institutions involved, using a multi-agency approach;

(7) **Develop national public awareness and educational campaigns** on the protection of cultural heritage with the help of the media, the private sector and civil society;

(8) **Encourage owners and those responsible for premises hosting or housing cultural heritage collections** to take appropriate steps, including applying new technology, to secure the property;

(9) **Identify underwater heritage at risk** and territorial waters which are disputed by countries, with a needs-assessed approach towards safeguarding underwater cultural heritage;

(10) **Review their legislation** and, where necessary, adapt it to the needs of effective protection of cultural heritage in accordance with the international conventions on the subject;

(11) **Consider ratifying** the 1954 (and its two protocols), 1970, 1972, 2001 UNESCO Conventions, as well as the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, if they are not yet States Parties, and implement their provisions;

(12) **Apply, in appropriate cases, the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime** for investigations into illicit trafficking in cultural heritage and related crimes;

**INVITES INTERPOL and its member countries, as well as other international organizations, to:**

(13) **Remind Member States of their obligations** under the Resolution 2199 (2015), particularly concerning paragraphs 17 and 29;

(14) **Organize** **training sessions** - focused on the fight against the illicit trade in cultural property, in particular over the Internet - for law enforcement officers and representatives of judicial and cultural bodies;

**RECOMMENDS that the international organizations concerned:**

(15) **Rapidly collect and disseminate information** on cultural property particularly at risk in countries and regions affected by civil unrest, armed conflicts, terrorist activities and natural disasters;

**RECOMMENDS that the General Secretariat:**

(16) **Establish a forum for** member countries, governmental and non-governmental international organizations, including art market professional associations, in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices as well as strategic and operational advice in the fight against the illicit traffic in cultural heritage;

(17) **Pursue the initiative of modernizing its global works of art database** (project PSYCHE);

(18) **Continue strengthening its mission** by supporting member countries in combating cultural property crime worldwide.

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