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Update for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Committee Overview

Recent Developments

At the conclusion of 2016, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) completed its first full year of global education initiatives under the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.[1] UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Qian Tang stated that "[e]ducation is at the nexus of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, as a basic human right, as a force for empowerment, transformation and peace."[2] In his final remarks of 2016, Assistant Director-General Tang stated that gender equality is a priority for education initiatives and that mainstreaming gender equality will support educational goals.[3] In order to track its progress over the upcoming decades, UNESCO launched the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) on 9 September 2016.[4] The purpose of GEM is to monitor the potential for education to reach global goals established by the 2030 Agenda.[5] Despite the efforts of UNESCO and the United Nations (UN) as a whole, GEM reports that universal primary education will not be obtained until 2042 if current educational trends continue.[6] The GEM report notes several obstacles to educational progress, including under-financing that has perpetuated inequalities due to racism, gender discrimination, and conflict.[7]

In November 2016, the UNESCO Executive Board released its decisions from the 200th session held in October 2016.[8] Though the report mainly addresses administrative matters facing UNESCO, the executive report also highlights UNESCO initiatives to tackle major thematic issues.[9] One of the major issues mentioned is global climate change.[10] The Executive Board cast its support for the outcomes of the twenty-second session of the Conference of Parties (COP 22) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, held in Marrakech, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016.[11] At its 200th session, the Executive Board adopted decisions to aid implementation and the successful transition of work from the twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties (COP 21) to COP 22.[12] The Executive Board adopted a decision to solidify and promote the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the only intergovernmental program of the UN focused on water resource management.[13] In addition to its actions on climate change, the Executive Board adopted decisions providing for the education of refugees and the declaration of 16 May as International Day of Light to promote light science and technology.[14]

UNESCO leaders attended the European Language Diversity Forum in December 2016.[15] Mr. Indrajit Banerjee, Director of UNESCO's Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, stated his concern for the rapid loss of languages around the world and emphasized the important role of linguistic diversity in sustainable development.[16] Banerjee argued that protection of language and linguistic diversity is necessary for the continued success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from generation to generation.[17] The language discussion prompted the creation of a *World Atlas of Language* to complement UNESCO's *Atlas of Languages in Danger*.[18] The new Atlas will address the challenges of protecting linguistic diversity and monitor languages both

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[1] UNESCO, *A look back at highlights of a unique year in UNESCO's Education Sector*, 2016.
[2] UNESCO, *Steering Committee for the Education 2030 Agenda plots the roadmap for 2017-2019*, 2016.
[3] UNESCO, *An end of year message from UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Mr. Qian Tang*, 2016.
[4] UNESCO, *2016 Global Education Monitoring Report launched with urgent call to prioritize education to reach SDGs*, 2016.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid.
[8] UNESCO, *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at its 200th Session*, 2016.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Marrakech Climate Change Conference - November 2016*, 2016.
[12] UNESCO, *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at its 200th Session*, 2016.
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.
[15] UNESCO, *UNESCO emphasizes the role of linguistic diversity for sustainable development*, 2016.
[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid.
[18] Ibid.

safe and in danger.[19] The Atlas represents a collaborative effort between institutions of higher education and UNESCO to teach and further global understand of linguistic diversity.[20]

In January 2017, UNESCO partnered with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to launch 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, established by General Assembly resolution 70/193 of 22 December 2015.[21] As of now, tourism accounts for about 10% of the world's economy and accounts to about 1.2 million people traveling the world internationally.[22] As part of its goals for the year, the UN hopes to bring better awareness to global poverty.[23] For UNESCO, this year provides an opportune time to execute its mission to educate and promote world heritage.[24] Throughout the year, UNESCO plans to host several conferences to promote heritage and the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves.[25]

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016). *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at Its 200th Session* [Report]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002463/246369e.pdf
> *This document highlights the current administrative issues facing the Executive Board. Additionally, the document provides insight into UNESCO's budget, which helps delegates locate existing funding to address the topics posed. Finally, the document provides information on initiatives supported by the Board as well as a plan of action on how UNESCO intends to support each initiative through their adopted decisions.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016, December 9). *Steering Committee for the Education 2030 Agenda plots the roadmap for 2017-2019* [News Article]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/resources/online-materials/single-view/news/steering_committee_for_the_education_2030_agenda_plot_the_ro/
> *This source provides an excellent start for understanding the educational initiatives of UNESCO. This source directly links delegates to both reports from the Global Education Monitoring report and UNESCO's Institute for Statistics. Delegates may use this resource to gather background information as well as statistical support for their working papers.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2016). *Marrakech Climate Change Conference - November 2016* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: http://unfccc.int/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/meeting/9567.php
> *The COP 22 conference in Marrakech was the most recent major conference concerning climate change. This source can be very beneficial for delegates trying to understand more about issues surrounding climate change and how international actors are combating it. Climate change has an effect on a wide range of UNESCO issues, including the protection of cultural heritage.*

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016, December 9). *Steering Committee for the Education 2030 Agenda plots the roadmap for 2017-2019* [News Article]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from:

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[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid.
[21] UN General Assembly, *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (A/RES/70/193)*, 2015, p. 1; UNESCO, *UNESCO Joins in Launch of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism 2017*, 2017.
[22] UNESCO, *UNESCO and the International Year of Sustainable Tourism*, 2016.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid.
[25] Ibid.

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/resources/online-materials/single-view/news/steering_committee_for_the_education_2030_agenda_plot_the_ro/

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016, December 19). *A look back at highlights of a unique year in UNESCO's Education Sector* [News Article]. Retrieved 30 December 2016 from: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/a_look_back_at_highlights_of_a_unique_year_in_unescos_edu/

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016, December 20). *An end of year message from UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Mr. Qian Tang* [News Article]. Retrieved 30 December 2016 from: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/an_end_of_year_message_from_unesco_assistant_director_genera/

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016). *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at Its 200th Session* [Report]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002463/246369e.pdf

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016). *UNESCO emphasizes the role of linguistic diversity for sustainable development* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-emphasizes-role-linguistic-diversity-sustainable-development

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2017, January 18). *UNESCO Joins in Launch of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism 2017* [Press Release]. Retrieved 6 February 2017 from: http://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-joins-launch-international-year-sustainable-tourism-2017

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2016). *Marrakech Climate Change Conference - November 2016* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: http://unfccc.int/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/meeting/9567.php

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (A/RES/70/193)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472). Retrieved 30 January 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/193

I. Empowering Vulnerable Groups through Access to Information and Communications Technology

Recent Developments

In recent months, the United Nations (UN) has focused its attention on the gender gap in terms of access to information and communications technology (ICT).[26] The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) partnered with the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to launch EQUALS.[27] It was launched in September 2016 with the purpose of guaranteeing access to technologies for girls and women.[28] According to *ICT Facts and Figures 2016*, a report published by the ITU, women have less access to the Internet than men.[29] Women in developing countries are also less likely than men to own a mobile phone.[30] The ICT fact sheet suggests that women need access to ICT for both private uses, such as access to information on hygiene and sexual education, and professional uses, such as networking and communicating with teams.[31] EQUALS aims to improve the access of women and girls to ICT and promote women's leadership in the tech sector.[32] These objectives further the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on empowering women and girls and SDG 8 on achieving decent work for all.[33]

In mid-November 2016, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was involved in a round table sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre.[34] The aim of the conference was to promote a more linguistically inclusive web, with special emphasis on the Russian language and the Russian Federation's many indigenous languages.[35] The UNESCO Information for All Programme spoke about its ongoing efforts to establish a World Atlas of Languages, asking governments to ensure more equitable access to ICT and governance data by creating online resources in all languages spoken in their territories.[36]

In early December 2016, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) took place in Jalisco, Mexico.[37] The four-day forum was promoted by UNESCO, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and ITU.[38] It united delegates from 123 different countries in a multilateral forum to discuss the relationship between the Internet and sustainable development, access to ICT for vulnerable groups, the protection of young people from cyber threats, and the gender gap in Internet access.[39] IGF 2016 was focused on analyzing how the Internet has changed since the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society in Tunisia.[40] While at IGF, delegates participated in discussions on access and diversity in many forums aimed at creating public policy to increase Internet access for people with disabilities, increasing access and capacity in Asia and Latin America, and ways to achieve the SDGs.[41] A meeting will be held for IGF starting 1 March 2017 in Geneva to review sessions from the December conference and to plan IGF 2017.[42]

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[26] ITU, *ICT Fact and Figures 2016*, 2016; UN-Women, *ITU and UN Women announce 'EQUALS': The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age*, 2016.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] ITU, *ICT Facts and Figures 2016*, 2016.
[30] Ibid.
[31] UN-Women, *ITU and UN Women announce 'EQUALS': The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age*, 2016.
[32] Ibid.
[33] UN DPI, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016.
[34] UNESCO, *UNESCO addresses challenges of a multilingual cyberspace*, 2016.
[35] Ibid.
[36] Ibid.; UNESCO, *Information for All Programme*.
[37] IGF, *About IGF 2016*, 2016.
[38] Ibid.; IGF, *Homepage*, 2016.
[39] Ibid.
[40] IGF, *About IGF 2016*, 2016; WSIS, *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*, 2005.
[41] IGF, *IGF 2016 Workshops*, 2016.
[42] IGF, *IGF 2017 First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting*, 2016.

Although vulnerable groups benefit from access to the Internet, global stakeholders have also pursued initiatives to expand access to other means of communications such as radio.[43] The World Radiocommunication Seminar (WRS-16) was held in Geneva from 12-16 December 2016.[44] During the seminar, the Director of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau, François Rancy, launched the Network of Women (NOW) initiative.[45] NOW was created to encourage gender equality in the decision-making context in the ITU Radiocommunication sector.[46] The goal is to have even more women involved in committees, groups, and bodies that will work for the preparation of the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19) forecast at the end of 2019.[47]

In January 2017, ITU received a donation from Thuraya Telecommunications, a Dubai-based company, to provide ITU with free satellite terminals.[48] This material donation is a result of a longstanding collaboration to build emergency response capacity in developing countries.[49] In the chaotic aftermath of an emergency, local communities become vulnerable to communication disruptions.[50] By strengthening telephone lines, mobile towers, and satellite networks, this effort will ensure that communities affected by natural disasters and crisis can connect to early warning systems and radios, as well as family and friends.[51] Enhancing data strength in areas affected by natural disasters will also allow aid agencies to reach survivors more easily by tracking their location through mobile GPS.[52]

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International Telecommunication Union (ITU). (n.d.). *ICT Fact and Figures 2016*. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx
> *This resource offers timely information about the status of ICT all over the world. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has published this annual report since 2009, making it a useful resource for comparing figures about worldwide access to ICT over time Moreover, there are several references to gender gaps in ICT.*

International Telecommunication Union. (2016). *ITU and UN Women announce 'EQUALS': The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age*. Retrieved 22 January 2017 from: http://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2016-PR38.aspx
> *EQUALS is a project promoted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UN-Women. The main goal is to enhance participation in technological fields by girls and women. Therefore, the project is focused on providing women with access to ICT, expanding their chances to acquire skills in the field, and strengthening their ability to lead technical companies and projects. The resource represents a great example for similar projects that are running at local and regional level.*

Internet Governance Forum – Mexico 2016. (2016). *About IGF 2016* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2017 from: http://www.igf2016.mx/
> *The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2016 focused on analyzing how the Internet has changed in the last decade. The focus was not only in terms of technological tools, but also how to use the Internet as a tool for empowerment. Moreover, IGF 2016 was addressed to promote among the 123 countries that attended full access to Internet for all.*

Thuraya Telecommunications. (2017). *Thuraya and ITU provide powerful partnership in disaster relief* [Website]. Retrieved 13 January 2017 from: http://www.thuraya.com/thuraya-and-ITU-provide-powerful-partnership-in-disaster-relief

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[43] ITU, *ITU's new 'Network of Women' Initiative*, 2017.
[44] Ibid.
[45] Ibid.
[46] Ibid.
[47] Ibid.
[48] Thuraya Telecommunications, *Thuraya and ITU provide powerful partnership in disaster relief*, 2017.
[49] Ibid.
[50] Ibid.
[51] UN WFP, *ICT in Emergencies*.
[52] Thuraya Telecommunications, *Thuraya and ITU provide powerful partnership in disaster relief*, 2017.

This source demonstrates a project to advance emergency response through ICT. The donation Thuraya Telecommunications provided ITU comprised equipment that can operate reliably in case of emergency. The longstanding collaboration allows ITU to access free satellite terminals that help people affected by natural disasters, as seen in Sri Lanka during the 2016 flood.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (n.d.). *ICT in Emergencies* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2017 from: https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/ict

This site explores some of the ways ICT can be used in emergency response for humanitarian crises and natural disasters. Similar to the work done by Thuraya and ITU, this source explores partnerships between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the private sector. In reviewing this resource, delegates should consider how ICT can be employed to mitigate the unique vulnerabilities of women, children, indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, the rural poor, and other traditionally marginalized groups in the event of a disaster.

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Thuraya Telecommunications. (2017). *Thuraya and ITU provide powerful partnership in disaster relief* [Website]. Retrieved 13 January 2017 from: http://www.thuraya.com/thuraya-and-ITU-provide-powerful-partnership-in-disaster-relief

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II. Sport for Peace and Development

Recent Developments

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport held its second meeting of 2016 on 22 November 2016 during which the funding of 16 new national anti-doping initiatives was approved.[53] These projects cover the three main areas of the fund: education; capacity-building; and policy advice.[54] During the meeting, the fund also reviewed the anti-doping activities taken by Member States and regional organizations.[55] Furthermore, on 20 November 2016, the Foundation Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) met in Glasgow, Scotland, to adopt a proportional and graded system of sanctions for Member States that do not comply with the international anti-doping norms.[56] This new framework will provide Member States with uniform, "predictable, and proportionate sanctions in case of non-compliance by the anti-doping organizations with the World Anti-Doping Code."[57] In accordance with the code, sanctions can be imposed on Member States or sports associations which range from the "ineligibility to host events," to cancellation of international events, or the imposition of symbolic consequences.[58]

On 21 July 2016, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) released a report on sport for sustainable development and peace.[59] The main recommendations of the report include greater stakeholders cooperation, and the implementation of national and international policies that are underlining the link between sports and sustainable development (including sustainable financing mechanisms, resources mobilisation, and partnerships).[60] Building on the Secretary-General's report, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 71/160 on "sports as a means to promote education, health, development and peace."[61] The resolution recognizes the link between sports and sustainable development, encourages capacity-building and cooperation with sports associations, reiterates the importance of making sport accessible, and underlines the contribution of sports in the empowerment of women and disabled people.[62] Finally, the resolution also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report in the next two years on the implementation of the dispositions enshrined in the resolutions, especially those concerning sustainable development, and the progress made by Member States.[63]

Further, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) has signed new partnerships with various sport associations in the previous months, such as the International Basketball Wheelchair Federation, the Football Association, and Football for Peace, to empower youth and promote development, peace, and sustainable development through physical education and sport.[64] In December 2016, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a partnership with the government of the federal district of Brasilia, in Brazil, to use sports as a tool to prevent youth crime and drug use.[65] Brazil is the first state to sign such a partnership with the UNODC, but additional Member States are expected to follow in 2017.[66]

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[53] UNESCO. *Clean sport – UNESCO supports new anti-doping initiatives*, 2016.
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid.
[56] WADA, *Foundation Board Press Release: Foundation Board Equips Agency to be Fit for the Future*, 2016.
[57] Ibid.
[58] WADA, *Compliance monitoring*, 2017.
[59] UN General Assembly, *Sport for development and peace: towards sport's enabling of sustainable development and peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/71/179)*, 2016, pp. 18-19.
[60] Ibid.
[61] UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts Resolution Committing to New Approach on Haiti Cholera Outbreak (GA/11878)*, 2016.
[62] Ibid.; UN DPI, *Transcending Borders, Sports plays a Critical Role in Overcoming Hurdles to Building Peace, Sustainable Development, Speaker tells General Assembly (GA/11867)*, 2016.
[63] UNOSDP, *Adopting Resolution, General Assembly Reaffirms Role of Sport as a Means to Promote Education, Health, Development and Peace*, 2016.
[64] UNOSDP, *New partnership between UNOSDP and International Wheelchair Basketball Federation*, 2016; UNOSDP, *UNOSDP signs partnership with Football Association*, 2016; UNOSDP, *UNOSDP launches new partnership with Football for Peace*, 2016.
[65] UNODC, *Using the power of sports to prevent youth crime and drug use*, 2016; UNODC, *Doha Declaration Global Programme*, 2017; UNODC, *13th UN Crime Congress closes with vow to implement Doha Declaration for crime's victims*, 2015.
[66] UNODC, *Using the power of sports to prevent youth crime and drug use*, 2016.

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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, December 6). *Transcending Borders, Sports plays a Critical Role in Overcoming Hurdles to Building Peace, Sustainable Development, Speaker tells General Assembly (GA/11867)* [Meetings coverage]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11867.doc.htm

>*On 16 December 2016, the GA adopted a resolution highlighting the contribution of sports to sustainable development. This webpage summarizes the main discussions, speeches and voting that took place around this resolution. It is imperative for delegates to be aware of the latest discussions on sports and sustainable development as well as the recommendations made by the GA. The meeting coverage also puts forward the principal arguments made by some Member States which could be useful for delegate preparation.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth-first Session. (2016). *Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace (A/RES/71/160)* [Resolution]. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee. Retrieved 6 February 2017 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/160

>*This resolution is the most recent UN General Assembly resolution addressing the role of sport in development. Its primary intent is to invite Member States to work with UNOSDP to promote the 2030 Agenda through sport. Delegates will find this resolution of importance in understanding the current direction the UN is taking to address sport and development.*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2016, December 13). *Using the power of sports to prevent youth crime and drug use* [News Article]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2016/December/using-the-power-of-sports-to-prevent-youth-crime-and-drug-use.html?ref=fs6

>*This recent initiative by the UNODC is a great example of how sports can lead to positive change among communities and empower youth. In order to get a full understanding of the developments on current topics, delegates may wish to be familiar with the work of other UN organs on sport for development and other social issues. It also important that delegates understand the work done by UNODC and the UN system as a whole to figure out how UNESCO can advance their efforts and fully contribute to the global discussion.*

United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace. (2016, December 22). *New partnership between UNOSDP and International Wheelchair Basketball Federation* [News Article]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: https://www.un.org/sport/news/new-partnership-between-unosdp-and-international-wheelchair-basketball-federation

>*Part of UNOSDP's work is the promotion of sport and its role in the inclusive development of all people. UNOSDP's recent partnership with the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation is an example of the organization's commitment to include all people, particularly vulnerable populations. Delegates will find this article useful as a means of understanding the types of partnerships and missions the UNOSDP commits to.*

World Anti-Doping Agency. (2016, November 20). *Foundation Board Press Release: Foundation Board Equips Agency to be Fit for the Future*. Retrieved 25 January 2017 from: https://www.wada-ama.org/en/media/news/2016-11/foundation-board-press-release-foundation-board-equips-agency-to-be-fit-for-the

>*WADA is the preeminent independent organization charged with monitoring the World Anti-Doping Code. Due to the critical role that the agency has, its new mechanisms and policies to ensure compliance of the code is of critical importance to the topic. For this reason, delegates should understand what the implications are for these new rules and mechanisms.*

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III. Safeguarding World Heritage

Recent Developments

The destruction of world heritage sites and artifacts at the hands of terrorist groups like the Islamic State (IS), including the cities of Nimrud and Palmyra, among others, has posed an incredible challenge to Member States, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and all stakeholders in preserving the heritage of humanity.[67] In December 15, 2016, UNESCO sent a mission of experts to assess the damage at Nimrud.[68] The assessment of damages will be invaluable for determining long-term recovery of the Nimrud heritage site at the International Coordination Meeting on the Cultural Heritage in the Liberated Areas of Iraq, which will be held in February 2017 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.[69] Additionally, from 16 to 19 January 2017 a team led by UNESCO investigated damages at the World Heritage sites in Aleppo, Syria, and discovered some 60% of the old city had been severely damaged and 30% utterly destroyed.[70] The destruction of the heritage sites in Palmyra and Aleppo received condemnation from UNESCO, Member States, and recently from the Security Council in a statement released on 20 January, urging that perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to justice.[71]

Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 November to 2 December 2016, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage raised concern over the lack of implementation of the International Assistance Mechanism of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.[72] Moreover, the Committee encouraged Member States to consider links between safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development, and considered reports from Member States on their efforts to protect intangible cultural heritage.[73] Additionally, several proposals from Member States were added to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, including Portugal's Bisalhães black pottery manufacturing process and Uganda's Ma'di bowl lyre music and dance.[74] The Committee also reviewed 6 requests from 37 Member States to add cultural heritage to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.[75] The vast majority did not get added to the list because they did not meet all criteria, and Member States were encouraged to submit their request by the following cycle.[76]

In December 2016, the United Arab Emirates and France launched a joint initiative to discuss the protection of endangered cultural heritage: The conference on Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage.[77] This conference marks the starting point for discussions on protecting endangered cultural heritage that is threatened by armed conflict or terrorism.[78] The conference resulted in the *Abu Dhabi Declaration* (2016), which calls for the "creation of an international fund for the protection of endangered cultural heritage" and the "creation of an international network of safe havens" for cultural property that is endangered by armed conflict or terrorism.[79] Supported by more than 40 Member States in attendance, the fund could provide resources for Member States to combat illicit trafficking of cultural artifacts, finance efforts for emergency action, and restore damaged cultural property.[80] Safe havens can be located in another location within a Member State, a neighboring Member State, or another Member State able and willing to temporarily safeguard cultural property, in accordance with international law.[81]

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[67] UN DPI, *UNESCO sends mission to assess extent of damage at Nimrud archaeological site in Iraq*, 2016.
[68] Ibid.
[69] Ibid.
[70] UN DPI, *UNESCO reports on extensive damage in first emergency assessment mission to Aleppo*, 2017.
[71] UN DPI, *Alarmed at the destruction in Palmyra, Security Council reiterated need to stamp out hatred espoused by ISIL*, 2017.
[72] UNESCO, *Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Eleventh Session, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 November to 2 December 2016*, 2016.
[73] Ibid.
[74] Ibid.
[75] UN DPI, *UN committee on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage opens session in Ethiopia*, 2016.
[76] Ibid.
[77] France, *Conference on Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage, Abu Dhabi, 2-3 December 2016*, 2016.
[78] Ibid.
[79] Ibid.
[80] Ibid.
[81] Ibid.

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, in partnership with the French Embassy in Zimbabwe and the University of Zimbabwe, led a workshop to assist members of the community in understanding how to help protect Rock Art sites, cultural heritage important to the community.[82] The workshop identified ways to better inventory and document sites, raise awareness of threats to sites including from graffiti and mining, and train community members in aiding conservation efforts across the region to include sites in Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland.[83]

Annotated Bibliography

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> *The* Abu Dhabi Declaration *reaffirms the international community's commitment to protecting world cultural heritage considered endangered. It advocates for the creation of an international fund for the protection of endangered cultural heritage and of an international network of safe havens that temporarily safeguard endangered cultural property, both of which are recent development that delegates should consider learning more about. Delegates will find it useful to review the Declaration to continue the international community's work in protecting endangered cultural heritage and to determine what actions their respective Member States might take to support the Declaration.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016). *Projects for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/project
> *This website lists and provides information regarding projects that safeguard intangible cultural heritage. A majority have received some financial assistance by UNESCO for Member States to be able to appropriately protect intangible cultural heritage. Delegates will find this list helpful not only to determine if there are projects within their own Member States, but also to see how various projects are undertaken to address threats to intangible cultural heritage.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016). *Report of the Decisions adopted during the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) (WHC/16/40.COM/19).* Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/40com/
> *This report published in November 2016 covers all the decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th Session in Istanbul from 10-17 July, 2016, and at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 24-26 October, 2016. Decision topics included: concern over the lack of implementation of the Action Plans for the Emergency Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in key States (such as Iraq and Syria), other key threats to world heritage (such as dams and climate change), and support for actions to prevent damage to and destruction of world heritage. Each of these topics should be of particular importance to delegates as they consider what the role their Member States and UNESCO will play in safeguarding world heritage.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Regional Office for Southern Africa. (2016). *Rock Art Conservation Workshop, November 7-13, 2016, Harare, Zimbabwe* [Information brochure]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: http://whc.unesco.org/document/155023
> *In November 2016, the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in partnership with various universities held a workshop for various members of the community to understand how to improve conservation of rock art. The workshop covered various threats to conserved rock art, including human-based and natural threats, and what members of the community could do to prevent damage to cultural heritage. Delegates should refer to this document as an example of how UNESCO works with other Member States and partners in including members of the community to preserve world heritage.*

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[82] UNESCO, *Rock Art Conservation Workshop, November 7-13, 2016, Harare, Zimbabwe*, 2016.
[83] Ibid.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2017). *Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Eleventh Session, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 28 November to 2 December 2016 (ITH/16/11.COM/Decisions)*. Retrieved 29 January 2017 from: http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/11com

> *This document outlines the various decisions of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, at its Eleventh Session. The document provides delegates with insight into the work of the Committee as it reviews the many examples submitted by Member States of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding, and determines which projects meet its criteria for funding and further support. Also, the document suggests that Member States to link safeguarding intangible cultural heritage with sustainable development to strengthen support for their protection.*

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