COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

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DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFGHANISTAN

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


Also recalling the UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage adopted during the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris at its thirty-second session in 2003,

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 that damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all humanity, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world,

Aware of the situation in Afghanistan,

Welcomes the UNESCO Statement of 19 August 2021 calling for the preservation of Afghanistan’s cultural heritage in its diversity, in full compliance with international law, and for taking all necessary precautions to protect the cultural heritage from damage and looting;

Also welcomes the Executive Board’s Decision on the implementation of UNESCO’s programmes in Afghanistan in the framework of the C/4 and C/5 documents, adopted during its 212th session (UNESCO, 6-20 October 2021);

Recognizes the efforts made by Afghanistan between 2018 to 2021 to implement international assistance activities, despite the difficult health and security conditions;

Urges all stakeholders to take all necessary measures and precautions to prevent any damage to cultural heritage sites, archives and museums, and to ensure the protection and preservation of cultural and documentary heritage in Afghanistan in its diversity regardless of its origin.

Adopted on 3 December 2021.

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1 Afghanistan - UNESCO calls for the protection of cultural heritage in its diversity
2 Decision on Implementation of UNESCO’s programmes in Afghanistan in the framework of the C/4 and C/5 documents (212 EX/47; 212 EX/DG.INF Rev.; 212 EX/57), adopted by the Executive Board at its 212th session