

**39TH SESSION - UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE
DELEGATES INFORMATION BUREAU**

CULTURE COMMISSION

Date	9 November 2017	Room	II
N° meeting	3	Hour	From: 10 a.m. To: 1 p.m.

Chairperson(s)	H.E. Ms Vincenza Lomonaco	Country	Italy
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SUMMARY OF DEBATE(S)

Items examined	Item 4.4 on the Establishment of a Regional Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptations & Dispersals in Southeast Asia (CHEADSEA)		
Debate no	2	Debate status	Start and closure
Related documents	39 C/18 Part XIII		
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor	Indonesia, Thailand		
Summary of debate	<p>The Chairperson introduced the Second Debate of the Culture Commission.</p> <p>The Chairperson opened the debate on Item 4.4 on the Establishment of a Regional Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptations & Dispersals in Southeast Asia (CHEADSEA), and adopted the Draft Resolution contained in paragraph 3 of document 39 C/18 Part XII, granting the Regional Centre the status of Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, without objection.</p> <p>Indonesia was congratulated by the Chairperson and took the floor to express its gratitude and present the objectives of the Regional Centre, which aims to promote, facilitate and support collaboration between States Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in Southeast Asia in the field of human evolution, adaptations and dispersals during the Pleistocene and Early Holocene eras.</p> <p>Thailand took the floor to congratulate Indonesia and highlight the importance of the research undertaken by this centre. It also encouraged the centre's regional and interregional cooperation with existing educational, scientific and cultural institutes and centres in particular, the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SAMEO SPAFA).</p> <p>The Chairperson closed the debate.</p>		

Items examined	Item 4.2 on Jerusalem and the implementation of Resolution 38 C/52		
Debate no	3	Debate status	Start and closure
Related documents			

DRs examined	39 C/COM.JM/DR.1
Countries that took floor	
Summary of debate	<p>The Chairperson proceeded to the Third Debate on Item 4.2 on Jerusalem and the implementation of Resolution 38 C/52.</p> <p>The Chairperson adopted 39 C/COM.JM/DR.2, as Member States by consensus and without debate.</p> <p>The Chairperson closed the debate on Item 4.4.</p>

Items examined	<p>Item 4.14 on Strengthening the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property</p> <p>Item proposed by Honduras on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group</p>		
Debate no	5	Debate status	Start and closure
Related documents	<p>39 C/REP/19 39 C/REP/21 39 C/REP/23 39 C/REP/20</p>		
DRs examined	39 C/COM CLT/DR.1 Strengthening the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property		
Countries that took floor on Item 4.14	Greece, Honduras, Norway, El Salvador, France, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Latvia, Denmark, Canada, Turkey, Japan, Italy, Iraq, Uganda, Ecuador, Guatemala, Belgium, the Netherlands, Cuba, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco, United States of America, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Estonia, Uruguay		
Summary of debate	<p>The Chairperson proceeded to the Fifth Debate on the Reports of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its activities (2016 – 2017), the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on its activities (June 2014-June 2016), on the activities of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of the States Parties to the 1970 Convention (2016-2017), and on the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (2016-2017) and Item 4.14 on Strengthening the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.</p> <p>The Culture Commission took note of the Reports.</p> <p>The Chairperson proceeded to Item 4.14, proposed by Honduras on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group.</p> <p>Honduras took the floor and recalled the strong support it has received from Member States (See https://en.unesco.org/generalconference/39/documents/draftresolutions).</p> <p>The Representative of the Director-General, Mr Francesco Bandarin, emphasised the importance of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and highlighted the actions taken by UNESCO to ensure its strengthening, notably through the establishment of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention. Regarding the proposal by Member States to include a list of best practices in the Convention, Mr Bandarin suggested that it be rather carried out during the Subsidiary Committee as there is a consultation process with Member States currently being undertaken by which recommendations to strengthen and improve the Convention have been requested by 15</p>		

January 2018. Mr Bandarin also stressed the timeliness of the Resolution taking into consideration that a meeting of the Subsidiary Committee will be taking place next year, which will allow to continue the discussions building on the feedback of the consultation process.

The Chairperson opened the floor for Member states to discuss Item 4.14.

Member States highlighted the pertinence of the Draft Resolution in the face of our world's growing challenges concerning the deliberate attacks on cultural heritage and the looting of cultural artefacts and given the importance of culture for social cohesion and as a source of identity. They also stressed the need to start a reflection process on the implementation of the 1970 Convention, while sharing their support to the Draft Resolution.

In response to the comments made by Member States, the Assistant Director-General for Culture supported the importance of strengthening the 1970 Convention, and provided an overview of UNESCO's recent efforts in this regard including the establishment of the Subsidiary Committee, the adoption of Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the 1970 Convention and the development of an internal evaluation of the Convention. Mr Bandarin also encouraged Member States to ratify the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects in view of the increase in illegal excavations, and stressed that while the number of ratification of the 1970 Conventions has been increasing, totaling 136 Member States to date, its universal ratification should be pursued. In order to increase the visibility of the Convention, Mr Bandarin pointed to enhancing the commitment of Member States, particularly through the establishment of partnerships and presented the 50th Anniversary of the Convention as an opportunity to reflect on the implementation of the Convention and mobilize the international community to combat illicit trafficking.

The Chairperson closed the discussion and proceeded to the Consideration of Draft Resolution 9 C/COM CLT/DR.1 paragraph by paragraph.

An amendment was proposed to recall UN Security Council Resolutions 2199, 2253 and 2347 at end of the preamble paragraphs, as well as to include additional wording to one of the paragraphs in the preamble, which called for a lengthy debate after which, a consensus was found and the Resolution was adopted.

Member States reiterated their support to the adopted Resolution and the Chairperson closed the debate on Item 4.14.

The Chairperson provided some closing remarks, in which she thanked Member States for their insightful discussions, expressed the honour to preside the Culture Commission, encouraged Member States to support the implementation of the Culture Programme and expressed her gratitude to the Assistant Director-General for Culture, the General Conference Secretariat, the Culture Commission's Secretariat and the interpreters, technicians and clerks.

The Rapporteur suggested that a new Item for General Debate be included in the next General Conference, aside from the Debate on the 40 C/5, and thanked the Secretariat.

Chile congratulated the Chairperson, and Culture Commission was concluded.