

**SECOND MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE 1970 CONVENTION ON THE
MEANS OF PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING THE ILLICIT IMPORT, EXPORT
AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CULTURAL PROPERTY**

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 20 and June 21, 2012

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

We, the States Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (hereinafter "the 1970 Convention") gathered at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, on 20 and 21 June 2012;

Recalling that the Constitution of UNESCO affirms that, throughout history, the lack of understanding of each other's ways and lives has been a source of suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world, and that peace to endure, must be founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind;

Considering that the main purpose of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture, in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations;

Recognizing that the illicit trade in cultural property is a problem with a great potential to sour relations of friendship and cooperation that should exist between nations;

Recognizing also the urgent need to make an effort of understanding and dialogue, in order to build a common agenda for protecting the cultural heritage of all peoples, promoting licit trade of cultural property and combating its illegal trafficking;

Reaffirming our commitment with the 1970 Convention and its purposes;

We recommend that the General Conference of UNESCO to:

1. Examine the following amendment to Article 25 of text of the 1970 Convention:

Article 25

1. This Convention may be revised by the **Meeting of States Parties to Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property** ~~General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization~~. Any such revision shall, however, bind only the States which shall become Parties to the revising convention.

2. If the **Meeting of States Parties** ~~General Conference~~ should adopt a new convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new convention otherwise provides, this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification, acceptance or accession, as from the date on which the new revising convention enters into force.

We invite all Member States of UNESCO to become part of the 1970 Convention.