

Report on the application of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

ITALY

I. Information on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention of 1970

1. Ratification of the Convention

Italy ratified the UNESCO Convention by Act N. 873 of 30 October 1975. In addition, the UNESCO Convention is mentioned in Legislative Decree No. 42 of 22 January 2004 – Code of the Cultural Heritage and Landscape (hereafter Code), Art. 87 bis, the special law regarding the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage.

2. Implementation in the national legal system and in the organization of services

- (a) References of the principal national regulations adopted in order to implement the 1970 Convention.
- (b) Definition of “cultural property” used by the national laws

According to the [Code L. 42/2004](#) and its amendments, cultural property consists of immovable and moveable things which, pursuant to Articles 10, 11, and 13, involve artistic, historical, archaeological, ethno-anthropological, archival and bibliographical interest, and of any other thing identified by law or in accordance with the law as testifying to the values of civilization. The aforesaid Code provides, in Article 1 prg. 2-5, a public and private responsibility to protect cultural heritage.

(c) Specialized units

The “Carabinieri Headquarters for the Protection of Cultural Heritage” (hereafter Carabinieri PCH) was established in 1969. They are a specialized unit with functional dependence by the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities (MiBAC). The specified tasks of these Headquarters are mainly concerned with the protection of the national cultural property through the prevention and repression of criminal activities, the recovery of looted cultural objects, the cooperation with international organizations and other Police Forces.

These activities are developed through traditional judiciary police procedures and particular attention is given to prevention through the surveillance of archaeological sites with helicopter patrols, control of fixed or itinerant trade in antiquities, verification of security measures in museums, libraries, and archives, check of auction house catalogues and monitoring of e-commerce, focused on cultural objects proposed for sale through Internet platforms.

(d) Administrative coordination

The Carabinieri PCH, in close liaison with the offices of MiBAC, organize courses and seminars for personnel from foreign Countries:

- Works in accordance with international police cooperation through INTERPOL;
- Provides its specialized support in Peace-keeping operations, as it was in Iraq from 2003-2006;
- Organizes training courses, focused on best practices for the protection of cultural heritage.

Besides, the Carabinieri PCH provide support to the Italian Ministry of Culture in cases under their specific competencies.

Since the 1980s, the Carabinieri PCH built a Stolen Works of Art Database. Currently the database includes information on more than 4,796,892 described objects and more than 435,072 images of artworks stolen.

Related information on stolen artworks with photography is also disseminated to the general public through www.carabinieri.it.

Moreover, within the structure of MiBAC, a special Committee has been established, with the aim of conducting negotiations with the museums or collectors of cultural good illegally looted from the national territories.

At the same time, it has strengthened synergies between the institutions (MiBAC, State Attorney General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), which are all involved in the initiation of requests of works stolen from the Italian territory, either through diplomatic and administrative actions or by international legal requests.

(e) Working meetings

Italy has organized many meetings or workshops to help other countries in enhancing laws and offices involved in these issues and implementing international Conventions regarding protection of cultural heritage.

From 2008 up to date, 35 countries attended these activities, also in close contact with UNESCO and INTERPOL. Three training courses were financed by UNESCO.

- 2004: Amman, Jordan
- 2008: Beirut, Lebanon – addressed to Iraqi Police Officers, Officials of the Ministry of Culture, Museums and Prosecutors.
- 2009: a training workshop was developed in Vicenza at Co.ESPU for specialized officials of 10 African countries (Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe).
- 5-7 October 2010: a training course addressed to Customs officials, Border Police, and representatives of the Minister of Culture was given in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- 23-26 November 2010 “Regional Workshop on administrative cooperation and the application of penal proceedings within the international requests for restitution was given in Quito, Ecuador, organized in cooperation with the Italian Latin-American Institute and attended by representatives of the Police forces and prosecutors from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru.

During Italy’s G8 presidency (December 2009) an International Meeting was organized in Rome on 16 and 17 of December that offered an opportunity for experts, academics, and officials from various countries and international organizations involved in the cultural sector to meet and exchange news and views. It was also an opportunity for a meeting of minds among people with experience in controlling the international circulation of cultural assets and recovering works using international tools applicable to the area of illegal export of cultural assets.

3. Inventories and identification

(a) Inventories

MiBAC provides the cataloguing of properties and coordinates relevant activities in accordance with Art. 17 of the Code.

The collections of public museums, galleries, institutes, as well as archives and libraries of the State, Regions, Provinces and Municipalities, are part of the Cultural National Domain and are inalienable. These cultural goods, which are public property, are registered in the inventories of the Institute where they are preserved.

Private cultural property, when declared according to Art. 13, are catalogued in conformity with general standard rules fixed by the ICCD (Central Institute for Cataloguing and Documentation).

ICCD, an autonomous institute inside MiBAC, has the responsibility of coordinating activities to define cataloguing standards, with the objective of recording the data according to consistent, nationally shared criteria for various types of cultural heritage.

Its archive manages the allocation of the general catalogue number (NCTN) which identifies the catalogued heritage. It collects, keeps and makes available for consultation the print catalogue material produced by the Superintendencies and Institutes, Regions and other cataloguing Bodies or concessions charged with carrying out cataloguing projects by special laws.

Unfortunately, only properties stolen from public collections or published or catalogued private collections can be traced to their origin. Archaeological objects which have been illegally excavated or looted, or which come from unpublished private collections, cannot be traced back to their point of provenance. However, according to the Civil Code, archaeological objects are public property even before their

excavation. Of course, even if they are not registered, they are fully recognised and protected *ab origine* as Cultural National Domain.

Cataloguing is implemented through photographic documentation, accompanying properties' description records, useful to document the property in the event of theft.

The Carabinieri PCH as well as having a database of unlawfully removed cultural goods, cooperate with the ICCD and all local MiBAC offices (Superintendencies) in charge of cataloguing the movable objects all over the territory. This allows the quick disposal of information on cultural goods in the area, when these have been subject to theft or embezzlement, for immediate inclusion into the database.

A close cooperation is also established with the Office for Ecclesiastical objects of the Italian Bishop Conference (CEI) which is developing a cataloguing campaign in the Dioceses' territories. They have made available 3.018.563 forms with related images for each inventoried object. The Carabinieri PCH can access the database with a *smart card* to check the objects found in suspicious situations.

(b) Definition of "cultural property" and "national treasures"

A definition can be found in the Code (see above) under Articles 10, 11, and 13.

(c) Reference to the Object ID standard

Both the MiBAC and the Carabinieri PCH participated and contributed to the study for the definition of "Object ID". Before the adoption of "Object ID", a quite similar checklist form addressed to private collectors and public institutions, names "Works of Art Document" was adopted by Carabinieri PCH and disseminated to private users. A form similar to "Object ID" is available on www.carabinieri.it and is accessible to the general public. This form is compatible with the "Object ID" checklist as it is also for INTERPOL and WOA's database.

(d) Systems to combat theft and to train staff

State museums, libraries and archives are generally equipped with alarms systems and in some cases with equipped control rooms, where specialized staff carries out duties for custody and supervision. The Carabinieri PCH provide its specialized support in this area and studied and prepared to this purpose a form, aimed to check museum security conditions. Fortnightly verification checks are scheduled to adapt security measures. Any anomalies are reported to the competent authorities, to initiate the necessary corrective action.

4. Archaeological excavations

- (a) Basic principles of the regulations on archaeological excavations and on the monitoring of excavations in force
- (b) Illegal excavations

Archeological research and the discovery of cultural properties, made in any part of the Italian territory, according to the Code are reserved to MiBAC. It can give to public or private institutes a concession of research, which may be revoked if necessary by the Ministry. In case of an accidental find, the discoverer must make a complaint within 24 hours to the Superintendent or to the Carabinieri PCH. Cultural properties "by anyone and in any manner found in the subsoil or seabed belong to the State", and "they are part of State property or of State unavailable heritage".

Also, operations of underwater excavation are included in the articles cited and recovered properties are State-owned. Recently Italy has ratified, with the Law, no. 157 of October 2009, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, which was already mentioned in the Code, art. 94.

The archaeological areas located throughout the Peninsula are constantly monitored. This makes it possible to limit the phenomena of illicit diggings and carry out services aimed to prevent and curb the destruction of archaeological sites.

Recently the Carabinieri PCH have started investigations by using night vision devices, allowed to document the activities of illegal excavations and intervene to stop and arrest those responsible. A constant presence in the area, the effects of complex investigations which allowed the identification of

tomb robbers, receivers and buyers of goods with an illicit provenance in foreign markets, contributed to a drastic reduction of the phenomenon.

- Compared to 2009, 2010 has seen a decrease of 20.68% in illegal excavations.

The region in which took place the highest amount of illegal diggings in 2010 is Sicily, followed by Campania and Lazio.

Semi-annual monitoring plans were programmed for this purpose. A total of 1,248 services were carried out in 2010 employing a wide range of branches of the Carabinieri.

According to the Code, archaeological research is, in principle, limited to the State. This arrangement aims to avoid research conducted inappropriately.

The intensification of investigations into foreign territory has proven fruitful for:

- The mapping of sector delinquency (usually specialized and recurring in the people working in this field);
- The recovery of assets sometimes unique and important;
- A reduction of their market value and ultimately limit clandestine excavations making them less profitable.

The establishment in each UNESCO Member State of groups composed of lawyers and experts is of particular importance. These groups reduce the time delay and allow for timely responses to combat trafficking in cultural property.

5. Monitoring of the export and import of cultural property

(a) Estimate of the scale of the illicit export or import of cultural property (statistics)

Statistics are regularly updated due to good inter-agency communication. These numbers are then communicated to INTERPOL on a yearly basis.

- 2010: 817 thefts were registered, for a total of 11,020 objects stolen (8,637 from libraries).
 - 50 people were referred to judicial authorities under arrest.

Control over home territory in the sale of cultural goods is also played by the Superintendencies, the local organs of MiBAC, as required by the provisions in the Code, Articles 63 and 64.

Dealers are required to register themselves in case of trading in cultural heritage.

For archaeological findings, there is also the obligation to report to the appropriate Superintendency. Moreover, according to the Code, the holder who fails to give notice to the competent Superintendency about the transport of declared or notified cultural goods can be punished. These provisions aim to combat de-contextualization and to increase awareness of the location of cultural property.

(b) Problem of the illicit export of cultural property

This is a recurring problem, as it is the easiest way to circumvent checks. The effect of the activities of constant monitoring and controls at the borders, the data acquired with the prosecution of criminals contribute to reduce the phenomenon. The Carabinieri PCH are also involved in oppositional activities, and close cooperation with customs and police forces is ongoing.

(c) Main rules for monitoring the export and import of cultural property

Italian law requires the border check of all outputting cultural properties as indicated by the Code, Articles 65-72.

The control on cultural property in both export and import or shipped inside the EU, is exercised by the Export Offices, spread over Italy.

Italian legislation has adopted within the Code the European Union provisions:

- EEC Council Regulation of 9 December 1992 no. 3911/92/CEE on the export of cultural properties and amendments.
- Directive 93/7/EEC of 15 March 1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State and amendments.

To output a cultural property from the national territory to an EU country, a certificate of free circulation must be obtained from an Export Office.

For modern works, with less than 50 years or of a living artist, self-certification is required to be performed at the Export Office itself.

Regarding exports, practices consist of controlling the identity of goods and in ascertaining the true source and the market value of the same. Temporary import licenses are issued by request.

(e) Obstacles encountered in securing the restitution of illicitly exported cultural property

The main obstacles are:

- The length of the evaluation procedures required by the requested country, not always appropriate to the investigative needs of the requesting country (both in the case of request for judicial assistance in criminal matters, and in case of request for police cooperation via INTERPOL);
- Differences in the investigative powers of police forces in the requested and the requesting countries, resulting in the rejection of the application and repetition by the judiciary;
- Procedural constraints in the execution of both activities (rogatory letters and police action). It may happen that during the searches made in the performance of an International Rogatory Commission, cultural objects of illicit origin – not indicated in the request – can be found: in these cases, although these are basically the same operating environment, it is not possible to seize the objects, nor make a list for subsequent investigations with the real risk of loss of material evidence or probative evidence;
- The practical application of Directive 93/7 EEC highlighted other issues relating to restitution. With regard to a concrete administrative cooperation provided by Article 4, full support is not always provided by the requested State. According to the Directive, the requested State has to order the restitution of the cultural property on the condition that it has been proved of its quality and illegal export.

In the case of illegal excavations, it is difficult to determine the provenance and the period in which the cultural object had been looted. Consequently the competent prosecutor in the requested State sometimes does not accept the request for restitution.

6. System for trade-in, acquisition, ownership and transfer of cultural property

(b) Rules governing trade in cultural goods, measures in place for such trade (maintenance of a police register), in particular through the Internet (reference to the basic measures proposed by UNESCO, INTERPOL and ICOM)

(c) Existing Measures to control the acquisition of cultural property

(e) Special rules on the transfer of title deeds in respect of cultural property

The Code (Art. 63) establishes some obligations for art dealers. Anyone who wishes to trade in such goods must make a prior declaration to the Mayor, which is followed by an acknowledgement that is an authorization of administrative police. The local public security authorities (Mayor) entitled to receive a prior declaration to the exercise of trade in antiquities submit to the Regional Authority and Superintendent a copy of the declaration. Trade in antiquities cannot be done without valid identity cards and other state issued documents.

They are also requested to fill a register, in which is stated the complete names and addresses of the sellers and buyers, the date of the transaction, the description of the good and the price agreed upon. The register then must be stamped and signed by the local public authority.

The sale of antiques and other second hand objects is subject to trade regulations and police administrative rules included in the text of public security laws (Royal Decree 773/1931 Art. 126 and 128). The Superintendent verifies the fulfillment of the register through periodic inspections, with the Carabinieri PCH.

Those who sell or expose for commercial purposes or intermediation for the sale of cultural objects must also:

- Submit to the purchaser the documentation stating the authentication of the good (attributes and origin).
- In absence of this documentation, a declaration must be consigned to the purchaser, containing all available information on authenticity, provenance and attribution.

In 2010, the worth of cultural assets seized by the Carabinieri is estimated at about 216 million euro.

(d) Existing legal system concerning ownership of cultural property:

Alienation of cultural goods is subject to conditions for “declared” cultural goods owned by private entities. If a transmission is through succession due to death, the obligation to expose it is care of the heir or legatee.

Such a provision aims to let the State know the current location of the asset, and it can also exercise the “right of first refusal” within a prescribed period due to the social function ascribed cultural heritage in the Constitution.

7. Bilateral agreements

(a) Bilateral agreements concluded with other countries on the import, export and return of cultural property

Agreements with American museums have resulted in the return of nearly 70 works. These agreements were the outcome of negotiations with the American Government and Memoranda of Understanding, according to the 1970 Convention for a moratorium on imports of undocumented archaeological items from Italy. Some recent agreements are:

- Metropolitan Museum, New York, 2006;
- Princeton University Museum, 2007;
- The Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 2007;
- The Cleveland Museum of Art, 2008;
- University of Virginia Art Museum, which led to the return of rare marble acrolithic sculptures stolen at Morgantina, Sicily in the 1970s.

Within the organizational structure of MiBAC, a special committee has been established with the aim to conduct negotiations with museums and collectors in the possession of illegally obtained cultural goods from the Italian territory.

Further agreements to combat illicit excavation and illegal export and import were also signed with China and Egypt. A treaty with Libya (30 August 2008) will furthermore provide the return of cultural objects removed during World War II.

Furthermore, “long term loans” may be agreed upon with museums that decide to withdraw support to illicit traffic and revise their acquisition strategies.

(c) Administrative aid or any other type of cooperation with neighbouring countries, particularly in respect of police and customs services?

2006 saw the signature of an agreement with Switzerland (entered into effect in 2009) according to the 1970 Convention, for the control of imports of cultural goods. This has opened a new door to collaboration considering that Switzerland has long been a hub for the illicit market.

Agreements with the Joint Police and Customs Cooperation Centre of Mondane (France) and Ponte Chiasso (Switzerland) have led to concrete cooperation mainly on information between members of the competent national authorities.

Furthermore the Carabinieri PCH have been contacted to verify artworks and individuals in cases of goods in transit.

II. Code of ethics, awareness raising and education

1. Ethical standards

(a) Application of the UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property and the ICOM for museums

The ICOM and UNESCO Codes are applied on a national level.

The Carabinieri PCH have established cooperation with antique trade associations, promoting a culture of *due diligence* on the control of the origins of goods. Art dealers have furthermore been allowed to access the information on stolen artworks online through the Carabinieri website.

2. Awareness raising and education

(b) Dissemination of the “One hundred missing objects” series and the ICOM Red Lists

The “One hundred missing objects” are at the disposal of the Carabinieri PCH, that also contributed to the realization of the volume dedicated to “Looting in Europe” focused on thefts in places of worship in France, Italy, Czech Republic, and Hungary. The objects in the volumes on Cambodia, Africa, and Latin America are included in the Carabinieri’s Stolen Works of Art Database. The Carabinieri have kept ICOM informed of the religious objects included in the “Looting in Europe” that have been recovered.

(c) Description of activities carried out to raise the awareness of the authorities and educate the public, children in particular, regarding the serious damage that can be caused by illegal excavations, theft of cultural property and illegal export.
How far can UNESCO contribute to these activities?

Great emphasis is placed on raising awareness with the public, according to the articles 5f and 10 of the 1970 Convention, through the exhibition of works returned from overseas. The Italian and foreign press address these issues very carefully, with proper emphasis on the recovery operations and on cooperation initiatives, thus raising a debate and encouraging participation and responsible awareness in the community.

The aforementioned International Meeting during Italy’s G8 presidency organized by MiBAC, offered an opportunity to discuss the best ways of protecting cultural property and of recovering works of art.

Alongside the fundamental principles established by the 1970 and UNIDROIT Conventions, the main issues addressed at the meeting ranged from the organization of control systems and investigative tools to cooperation between police forces and judiciaries from various countries, as well as the adaptation of national rules and regulations. Focus was also placed on identifying the resources to institute legal claim proceedings that are often long and costly due to differing regulatory systems.

The meeting’s activities were supplemented with visits to two important exhibitions held in the same period in Rome to give public access to a number of artworks returned to Italy: “Il Segreto del Marmo” (The Secrets of Marble) held in Palazzo Massimo – Museo Nazionale Romano, where were exposed different archaeological artifacts which had been plundered and scattered through illegal excavation. The exhibition “Antologia delle Meraviglie” (Anthology of Wonders)] made public a number of artworks recovered thanks to the intervention of the Carabinieri PCH.

Other exhibitions have been organized in Florence, Naples and Venice in order to illustrate the recovery not only of the material itself but also of its historical significance.

The return of the Morgantina Silver Hoard from the Metropolitan Museum of Art was also presented to the public in Rome and Sicily, thus awakening public opinion to the importance of conserving the context together with the find. Furthermore the public was also made aware of the negotiation behind the return of the Silver Hoard.

The academic sphere had contributed to raising awareness through the dissemination of deontological codes. The archaeological sector has also played a role with the essential application of scientific methodologies in excavation and display of the material retrieved.

The Carabinieri PCH also promote public awareness campaigns within different age groups as well as within different professions. A lot of work is also conducted in schools.

Among the Carabinieri’s activities are:

- A comic book, which outlines the steps undertaken to recover stole works of art.
- An interactive video game to be disseminated in schools, to make people aware of the value and importance of cultural heritage and its protection.
- Available online on www.carabinieri.it, a virtual museum in which are exhibited significant works of art recovered during the first forty years of activity of the Carabinieri PCH. Also publicly accessible is a version of the “Object ID”.

III. Cooperation with other international and regional agencies

Police

- (a) State of national cooperation with INTERPOL. Specialized police services to whom the heritage officials can call on for enquiries, legal proceedings and punitive measures
- (b) Check on the INTERPOL database on stolen objects when a cultural object is stolen. Transmission of information on the persons implicated in the theft of cultural property.

The Carabinieri PCH operates closely with INTERPOL, nationally and internationally, for the exchange of information among its 188 member countries, concerning investigations on art crime cases. The Carabinieri PCH also supply information on stolen art to the INTERPOL database. In case of the recovery of artworks, when a case is concluded, information on relevant circumstances and individuals involved are communicated to the General Secretariat for crime analysis purposes. The Carabinieri PCH are also in close contact the points of contact in foreign countries dealing with illicit traffic.

Since August 2009, soon after the INTERPOL database was made available via online consultation, all the Carabinieri requested a personal password for access to the Database.

The Carabinieri PCH also contributed to the diffusion at a national level of this initiative, to enhance public awareness on due diligence procedures and made people of aware of the possibility to check for the provenance of cultural goods. The INTERPOL database is regularly consulted to compare works of art traced or found during inspections or in the cases of criminal investigations. The staff of the Carabinieri's Stolen of Works of Art database, in charge of the control of catalogues of auction houses and sales over the Internet, connects regularly with the INTERPOL database for checks.

(c) Specific training program for members of police services

Each representative of the Carabinieri PCH attends a postgraduate course, arranged by MiBAC, focused on legislative issues and specific knowledge of the operators in cultural heritage protection.

(d) Punishment of fraud and theft related to cultural property via criminal law provisions. Specialized judges in this field

The Criminal Code includes specific crimes which, in combination with the provisions of the Code allow the prosecution of offenses in prejudice of culture objects. Within some public prosecutors' offices are established pools of magistrates in charge of investigations in the field of cultural heritage.

(e) Cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The Carabinieri PCH participated in May 2010 in the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention). In occasion of training courses for police officers and prosecutors, the Carabinieri PCH involved UNODC officials as trainers.

MiBAC and the Carabinieri PCH representatives took part (October 2010, Vienna) in the 5th Conference of State Parties of the United Nations Convention Transnational Organized Crime (UNODC) making progress in agreeing to set up a working group to lay out the ground for the possible adoption of review mechanism in two years time. This mechanism would monitor the progress of Member States in implementing the convention. Considerable attention was devoted, during the conference, to formulating and strengthening responses to new and emerging forms of transnational crime, such as cyber crime, environmental crime and crimes against cultural property with the adoption of a specific resolution on cultural property crime.

Customs

(f) Status of cooperation with the World Customs Organization. Specialized customs services which could assist heritage officials in preventing the illicit export of cultural property

The Italian Customs Agency is a member of the World Customs Organization and participates in the activities and development of initiatives of the WCO. The activities are carried out in accordance with the EU Regulation (Reg. EEC n. 752/93 of 30 March 1993) and with the Code.

(g) Specific training program for members of the customs administration

Under the annual plan of training of customs staff, the Agency has specific training sessions on extra-fiscal controls and cooperation with other national authorities, which also affect the field of prevention of illicit exports of cultural properties.

(h) Reference to the UNESCO-WCO Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects

European Union - Application of the Council of the European Communities Directive 93/7/EEC of 15 March 1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State

Council Directive 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State has been transposed into Italian legislation with the Law of 30 March 1998, n. 88, that was included within the Code in 2004 (art. 73-86). The Directive had not led to major changes to that national export procedures previously used but does introduce specific rules to facilitate cooperation among Member States, particularly with the relevant Central Authorities.

In accordance with article 3 of the Directive, a Central Authority has been established in the Secretariat General of MiBAC to “coordinate efforts for the recovery of cultural heritage illegally exported abroad”.

IV. Other legislative, legal and administrative measures taken by the State

1. Accession to the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects

Italy has ratified the UNIDROIT Convention by Act n.213 of 7 June 1999. In addition, the rules provided by the UNIDROIT Convention are mentioned in the Code, Art. 87.

2. Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation

Representatives of MiBAC and the Carabinieri PCH have participated in meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee, reporting about the activities and the initiatives regarding all the aforesaid topics.

In the last, the Italian delegation has contributed in the progress to reach an agreement on the procedures of mediation and conciliation on the restitution of cultural property.

3. UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws – contribution and update

According to UNESCO recommendations to Member States, Italy has collaborated in submitting its own national legislation related to cultural heritage in order to include it in the UNESCO database.