**FORUM:** General Assembly

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to Protect Cultural Property in Times of Armed Conflicts

**MAIN-SUBMITTED:** Czech Republic

**CO-SUBMITTED BY**: India, Japan, Philippines, Iran, Argentina, Yemen, New Zealand, South Africa, Laos, Rwanda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Recognizing* the frequency of armed conflicts resulting in damage to cultural heritage including monuments, groups of buildings, and sites around the world,

*Deeply concerned* about the cultural, social, and economic heritage impacts the damaged properties bring to the nations,

*Acknowledging* the importance of movable and immovable cultural properties to the health of a member state,

*Noting* the international agreements of the 1954 Hague Convention, 1954 First Protocol, and 1999 Second Protocol to help protect cultural properties,

*Emphasizing* the flaws of the said agreements leading to the historical continuous destruction of cultural properties including the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

*Realizing* the destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan by the Taliban, followed by Taliban attacks and looting of the National Museum of Afghanistan resulting in a loss of 70% of the 100,000 artifacts of Afghan culture and history,

*Mindful* of the recent damage of over 260 Ukrainian cultural properties resulting from the Russo-Ukraine war,

*Having considered* the growing political and military tension between member states from around the world,

1. Requests an international fund “Cultural Property Preservation Fund” from member states of the United Nations (UN) to reduce and restore property damages from current and historical armed conflicts in the following ways but not limited to:
   1. Taking the following measures to raise the funds:
      1. mandatory donations including the UN contribution and voluntary donations by member states to settle on agreements,
      2. international charity events for citizens from a variety of member states, both online on social media and offline in person,
      3. citizen donations through official websites,
      4. corporate sponsorships with organizations seeking visibility and association with the UN,
   2. Effectively allocating the funds in the following ways:
      1. initiating a global project for the restoration of all damaged cultural properties,
      2. organizing conventions for member state representatives for member states to agree upon an action plan in the case of armed conflicts,
      3. promoting education programs about the importance of cultural properties,
      4. assessing current and future risks of harm to cultural properties in different member states;
2. Asks for a non-profit organization or a sub-division department of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that specifically focuses on projects to prevent cultural damage and preserve valuable properties through the following methods but not limited to:
   1. Funding in the following ways:
      1. budget of the UN and UNESCO,
      2. the fundraisers mentioned above for cultural property preservation,
   2. Focusing on the consequential projects including:
      1. documenting the conditions and events of each cultural heritage,
      2. arranging international treaties to prevent abuse of cultural properties,
      3. forming national response teams to rapidly react to emergencies involving cultural properties,
      4. building an association of experts to restore and repair broken cultural properties to the best of abilities,
      5. providing education regarding the importance of cultural heritage and conservation,
      6. cooperating with organizations that help protect the heritages and cultural properties, possible corporations include: Blue Shield International (BSI), International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC), The ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives, UNESCO World Heritage Center, etc.
   3. Allowing the authority to lead and discuss with:
      1. representatives of each member state,
      2. UNESCO agents,
      3. other elected agents of the organization;
3. Encourages regular conventions to settle agreements benefiting global cultural properties and discuss solutions to the cultural impacts of current war conflicts in the following ways but not limited to:
   1. Organized in the following ways:
      1. the annual United Nations General Assembly sessions from September to December and January,
      2. organizations dedicated to the preservation of movable and immovable properties of culture,
   2. Constructing international agreements to minimize the impacts on cultural heritage in the following ways:
      1. clearly defining and recognizing the cultural properties entitled to protection from armed conflicts,
      2. supporting agreements with other countries in the UN Council,
      3. concurring in preserving culturally significant properties in a member country,
      4. planning an action as to what should be done in the times of armed conflicts to minimize the loss,
      5. designing a protocol that can be applied to any member state when the cultural properties are in danger,
      6. supporting international legalization and regulation to preserve cultural properties,
   3. Compromising to restore cultural properties that were damaged in past armed conflicts through the following ways:
      1. acknowledging responsibility for a war action that caused harm to cultural properties,
      2. encouraging the involvement of international third-party mediators to facilitate discussions on restoration,
      3. providing financial compensation to countries for damaged properties from government support,
      4. urging restitution of illicitly taken cultural properties;
4. Recommends compelling member states with a history of war actions that damaged or took cultural properties to restore to the original condition by condemnation of war crimes through the following ways:
   1. Proposing economic penalties in terms of tourism and commerce:
      1. encouraging higher tariffs on internationally traded objects from the countries that object, lowering the demand overall,
      2. decreasing the number of travelers to the country of question through a stricter process of visa,
      3. ceasing or restricting trade with the offending country,
   2. Cultural penalties against property preservation:
      1. temporarily ceasing the protection of cultural properties in the country of issue,
      2. restricting the number of UNESCO World Heritage sites in the country involved in war crimes,
      3. abstaining from cultural exchanges, collaboration, celebrations, festivals, and other events from the offending country,
      4. excluding from cultural heritage preservation projects in the UNESCO or other governmental organizations;
5. Calls upon nation-wide regulations and laws to protect and restore cultural properties from armed conflicts using the following methods but not limited to:
   1. Criminalization of individuals harming national properties to prevent further damage,
      1. encouraging stronger penalization of the destruction of cultural properties by state citizens through fines or incarceration,
      2. applying mandatory volunteerism for the protection of cultural properties to the convicted individuals,
   2. Including bilateral agreements under national laws with other member states to ensure the safety of cultural properties,
      1. consensus to restore damaged cultural properties,
      2. assent to maintain peace regarding cultural properties in times of conflict,
      3. clear requirements on importation and exportation for the prevention of illicit taking,
      4. providing information about the said agreements on the official UNESCO World Heritage website;
6. Urges to raise awareness of the damage to cultural properties during armed conflicts on a global scale through the following methods but not limited to:
   1. Globally accessible education about the importance of cultural heritage in such ways but not limited to:
      1. collaborating with cultural heritage preservation experts to effectively plan and execute the campaign,
      2. emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity through lectures, exhibitions, and educational materials,
   2. Delivering detailed information on damaged cultural properties online on:
      1. UN and UNESCO official websites,
      2. a new cultural preservation website,
      3. government or organization’s official social media accounts,
   3. Promote tourism for better exposure to citizens interested in culture in the following ways:
      1. advertising for more frequent visits to the cultural sites,
      2. educating and informing of the history of the properties,
   4. campaigns of public service advertisement online:
      1. utilizing budget from fundraisers,
      2. using broadcasting media including advertisements, interviews, and news,
      3. using social media for promotion includes but is not limited to YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook,
      4. initiating collaborative advertising projects with local communities, cultural institutions, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.