



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
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**To: All States Parties to the World Heritage Convention**

**cc: Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN)**

**Subject: Draft Resolution concerning the protection of cultural heritage in Afghanistan recommended by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its 25<sup>th</sup> session for adoption by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention at its 13<sup>th</sup> session (30-31 October 2001)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to inform you that during its 25<sup>th</sup> session (25-30 June 2001, Paris), the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee recommended a Draft Resolution for adoption by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention at its 13<sup>th</sup> session (30-31 October 2001, Paris) concerning the protection of cultural heritage in Afghanistan. Please find hereafter attached the Draft Resolution.

If you have any queries relating to the Draft Resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please be assured Madam/Sir, of the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Bandarin  
Director  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Attachment: Annex I

## ANNEX I

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 25<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (25-30 JUNE 2001, PARIS) FOR ADOPTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AT ITS 13<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (30-31 OCTOBER 2001, PARIS) CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFGHANISTAN**

“The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, recommended that the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, at its thirteenth session (30-31 October 2001), adopt the following draft resolution:

*Recalling* the invitation of the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 161<sup>st</sup> session to the World Heritage Committee to identify the means of ensuring better protection of the common heritage of humanity;

*Noting* the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954) and its Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the World Heritage Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the UNIDROIT Convention and other relevant international legal instruments;

*Appreciating* the attempts made by the Director-General of UNESCO, UNESCO Member States and various organizations and individuals to convince the Taliban forces to protect the cultural heritage of Afghanistan;

*Condemns* the wilful destruction of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan by the Taliban forces, particularly the statues of Bamyán, as a crime against the common heritage of humanity;

*Appeals* to all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to become signatories to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, its Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the UNIDROIT Convention and other international legal instruments protecting cultural heritage, if they have not yet done so;

*Invites* the Director-General of UNESCO to inform the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, on the chronology of events related to the nomination for inclusion on the World Heritage List of the statues of Bamyán and other Afghan cultural heritage properties by the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan currently in exile;

*Invites* the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, to consider:

- a) ways and means by which the implementation of the World Heritage Convention can be reinforced, especially in relation to the other relevant UNESCO Conventions for the protection of cultural heritage;

- b) measures for enhancing the promotion of education, awareness raising activities and communication concerning the irreplaceable values of the cultural heritage of humanity;
- c) improved mechanisms for promoting the scientific documentation of potential and existing world cultural heritage properties;

***Invites*** States Parties to inform the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, on any steps they have taken to encourage the Taliban forces to respect and protect all evidence of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan.

***Invites*** the Director-General of UNESCO to inform the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fifth session on mechanisms to inform, when necessary, the Secretary General of the United Nations of threats to global heritage so that the Security Council may have at its disposal information to enable it to decide on the possible use of sanctions to protect the cultural heritage of humanity.”