

**ICOMOS International Workshop on  
Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage**  
New Delhi  
22 May 2007\*

**RESOLUTION**

Concerned with the increasing evidence of the unprecedented changes in global climate patterns and the impacts these have on heritage sites, buildings, settlements, landscapes, movable objects and the living traditions in various regions of the world;

Considering the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the work being undertaken within the framework of the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for climate change mitigation and adaptation;

Recalling the text of the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2005 and 2006 for concerted action in documentation, monitoring, and provision of appropriate adaptation for the impact of climate change on the World Heritage Sites;

Further recalling the Resolution of the 15th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) at Xi'an in October 2005 to fully co-operate with UNESCO and other relevant organisations to document the impact of climate change on cultural heritage and to develop a strategy for reducing the risks to cultural heritage; and

Taking into account the evidence contained in the publication "*Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage*" published in 2007 by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;

The experts participating in "*The International Workshop on the Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage*" organized in New Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007.

**Acknowledge** the immensely complex issue of the impact of climate change on cultural heritage, which would require sustained research, studies and documentation involving collaboration among experts from multiple disciplines;

**Recognise** the need to assess the risks to cultural heritage due to climate change such as glacial melts and threats of lake outburst and flooding, sea level rises, desertification, storm surges, saline water ingress and increased infestation of pests, etc;

**Suggest** that such assessments should be done both at the *macro level* (mapping heritage which would be at risk) and at the *micro level* (analyzing the impacts on specific heritage sites and suggesting appropriate climate change adaptation strategies);

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\* The Recommendations issued by this meeting are still being worked on by ICORP and will be presented at the next General Assembly.

**Recommends** that climate change adaptation strategies for cultural heritage should be mainstreamed into the existing methodologies for preservation and conservation of sites, buildings, settlements, landscapes, movable objects and the living traditions and that appropriate standards and protocols should be developed for the purpose. Equally cultural heritage needs and concerns should be mainstreamed into institutional processes and policies for disaster reduction;

**Requests** the national governments and international organisations to acknowledge the importance of cultural heritage for national economies, tourism, employment and community bonding and to involve the governmental and non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and individuals concerned with raising awareness, conservation and protection of cultural properties with the national and international protocols for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;

**Further requests** the national governments, inter-governmental, non governmental organisations and the private sector to engage and commit resources for the protection of specific heritage sites from the threats of damage and irretrievable loss;

**Encourages** scientific, technical, academic, research organisations and individuals to collaborate on specific studies related to the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage; and

**Appreciates** the efforts made by the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi and India-ICOMOS in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology in organising the workshop, which for the first time brought together climate change specialists and cultural heritage experts on the same platform facilitating interaction, exchange of views and cross-fertilization of ideas, and expects these institutions to take the lead in this region of the world to promote such interactions in the future;

**Encourages** the dissemination of this resolution and the Delhi Recommendations of the ICOMOS International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) Workshop on Risk Management of Heritage Sites as means to promote further collaboration between professional, scientific and institutional networks.

Adopted in New Delhi, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2007