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Protection of
Cultural Property in
the Event of Armed Conflict

Extraordinary meeting

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2nd EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UKRAINE

The Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict,

Deeply deploring the lives threatened and lost during the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine,

Expressing solidarity with the people of Ukraine,

Gravely concerned about the preservation of cultural heritage in Ukraine during the on-going armed conflict,

Recalling UNESCO's standard setting instruments for the protection of cultural heritage, particularly the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, the 1972 World Heritage Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, as well as the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Emphasizing one of the fundamental principles of the Preamble of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict providing that damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all humanity, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world,

Recalling UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 on the Aggression against Ukraine,

Also recalling UN Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) affirming that directing unlawful attacks against sites and buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, or historic monuments may constitute, under certain circumstances and pursuant to international law a war crime and that perpetrators of such attacks must be brought to justice,

Bearing in mind the UNESCO Declaration of 2003 concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session,

Welcoming the UNESCO statement of 3 March 2022 following the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Resolution on Aggression against Ukraine, in which UNESCO calls for the "protection of Ukrainian cultural heritage, which bears witness to the country's rich history, and includes its seven World Heritage sites – notably located in Lviv and

Kyiv; the cities of Odessa and Kharkiv, members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network; its national archives, some of which feature in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register; and its sites commemorating the tragedy of the Holocaust”,

Calls for full respect for international humanitarian and international human rights law, including the obligations stemming from the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols, to prevent destruction and damage to cultural heritage in Ukraine,

Also calls the Russian Federation to ratify the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention at the earliest opportunity,

Urges the Russian Federation to comply with its obligations according to Article 4 of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First Protocol by refraining from any use of the property and its immediate surroundings or of the appliances in use for its protection for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflict; and by refraining from any act of hostility, directed against such property,

Also urges the Russian Federation to prevent and put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of, and any acts of vandalism directed against, cultural property, and to refrain from requisitioning movable cultural property situated in Ukraine, in accordance with Article 4 paragraph 3 of the 1954 Hague Convention and articles 1-5 of its First Protocol,

Encourages Ukraine, in close coordination with UNESCO, to consider marking as quickly as possible key historic monuments and sites across Ukraine, as well as the transport of cultural property, with the distinctive emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention, an internationally recognised signal for the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict,

Invites all Member States, UNESCO and relevant cultural heritage expert organizations to provide Ukraine, upon their request and based on their identified needs, any support or advice it may be able to give in protecting and safeguarding, including risk preparedness measures, of cultural heritage of Ukraine.