



## **Human Rights Council**

### **Resolution 6/11.**

### **Protection of cultural heritage as an important component of the promotion and protection of cultural rights**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

*Bearing in mind* pertinent universal and regional legal instruments for the promotion and protection of cultural rights and for the protection of cultural heritage, including the principles enshrined in conventions, recommendations, declarations and charters for the protection of cultural heritage adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Reaffirming* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

*Recalling* that States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights undertake to take steps, including those necessary for the conservation, development and diffusion of science and culture, in order to achieve full realization of the rights, as stipulated in article 15 of the Covenant,

*Reaffirming* the importance of cultural diversity for the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized instruments,

*Recalling* that cultural diversity, flourishing within a framework of democracy, tolerance, social justice and mutual respect between peoples and cultures, is indispensable for peace and security at the local, national and international levels,

*Mindful* that cultural heritage is an important component of the cultural identity of communities, groups and individuals, and of social cohesion, so that its intentional destruction may have adverse consequences on human dignity and human rights,

*Affirming* that intentional destruction of cultural heritage may violate the principles of international law,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the protection of cultural heritage and the commitment to fight against its intentional destruction in any form so that such cultural heritage may be transmitted to the succeeding generations,

*Recognizing* the valuable contributions of all religions to modern civilization and the contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

1. *Recognizes* that the promotion and protection of cultural rights and the respect for different cultural identities are vital elements to advance freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples;

2. *Reiterates* that each culture has a dignity and value which must be respected and preserved, and that respect for the diversity of belief, culture and language promotes a culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations;

3. *Recognizes* that intentional destruction of cultural heritage may constitute advocacy and incitement to national, racial or religious hatred and thereby violates fundamental principles of international human rights law, inter alia, the provisions as stipulated in article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4. *Expresses grave concern* about continuing acts of intentional destruction of cultural heritage that take place in various parts of the world;

5. *Underlines* that States bear responsibility for intentional destruction or failure to take appropriate measures to prohibit, prevent, stop and punish any such

destruction of cultural heritage of great importance for humanity, to the extent provided for by international law;

6. *Encourages* all States, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the media to promote a culture of tolerance and respect for the diversity of cultures, civilizations and religions and for cultural and religious sites, which represent an important aspect of the collective heritage of humankind;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of continued cooperation at international and regional levels in order to encourage dialogue among cultures with a view to ensuring wider and balanced cultural exchanges in the world in favour of intercultural respect and culture of peace;

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to encourage all relevant human rights bodies and mechanisms to pay due attention to the issue of promotion of cultural diversity and protection of cultural heritage as an important component of the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the full realization of cultural rights;

9. *Encourages* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance consultations with the Council and cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and bodies concerned with the issue of protection of cultural heritage in order to address human rights-related aspects of this issue;

10. *Requests* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies, as well as regional intergovernmental organizations; .

11. *Decides* to remain seized of this issue and to consider further actions in order to implement the present resolution.

*[Adopted without a vote]  
21st meeting  
28 September 2007*

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