



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 September 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 10

Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin

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Report by the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in combating illicit trafficking in cultural property and promoting its return to the countries of origin or restitution in the case of illicit appropriation, since the previous report submitted to the General Assembly on the matter, in 2018 ([A/73/390](#)). It includes recommendations for the protection of cultural heritage and cultural property.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution [73/130](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to submit to it, at its seventy-sixth session, a report on the implementation of the resolution. The report contains information regarding activities undertaken between September 2018 and July 2021.

II. Ratification of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

2. Since 2018, Comoros, Latvia, Togo and Yemen have become parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970 Convention), bringing the number of States parties to 141.

3. Furthermore, since 2018, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Latvia, Montenegro and Myanmar have become parties to the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, adopted by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in 1995, bringing the number of States parties to 50.

III. Statutory meetings

4. The fifth Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention was held on 20 and 21 May 2019 at UNESCO headquarters. At the meeting, States parties discussed the means of strengthening the implementation, efficiency and visibility of the 1970 Convention, including the drafting of model provisions on the prevention of and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property and ensuring rigorous follow-up to capacity-building training. In addition, the States parties recalled that the fund of the 1970 Convention was dependent on voluntary contributions and called for annual voluntary contributions to be made to the fund equivalent to at least 1 per cent of States parties' total contribution to the UNESCO regular programme.

5. The seventh session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention took place from 22 to 23 May 2019 at UNESCO headquarters. At that session, the Subsidiary Committee examined national reports submitted by member States on measures taken in application of the Convention and requested the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to complete the implementation of the new electronic reporting system. In addition, the Subsidiary Committee discussed the issue of return and restitution within the framework of the 1970 Convention and requested the Secretariat to conduct capacity-building activities with a specific focus on that issue, while calling for reinforced cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation.

6. The eighth session of the Subsidiary Committee took place at UNESCO headquarters from 27 to 28 October 2020. The Subsidiary Committee discussed a document on possible tools to reinforce the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, highlighting the responsibility of art dealers in respecting due diligence practices and the need to update the International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property. Furthermore, several other topics were discussed, including the importance of inventories and the sensitization of the media, the links between due

diligence and provenance concepts and a checklist of actions to be followed in the event of cultural theft.

7. During their sixth meeting, held from 25 to 26 May 2021, States parties discussed the criteria and procedures to be followed for public statements by the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization condemning the sale of cultural property illicitly traded from its country of origin, and decided to establish a working group whose mandate would be to continue to reflect on the issue. Furthermore, States parties debated the respective roles of the 1970 Convention and the Intergovernmental Committee, considering that they both converged towards the common goal of protecting cultural property by limiting the illicit trafficking thereof and encouraging actions for the return and restitution of stolen cultural property to its countries of origin.

8. The ninth session of the Subsidiary Committee took place from 27 to 29 May 2021 at UNESCO headquarters. During the session, discussions focused on States parties' responses to the questionnaire regarding the implementation of the operational guidelines of the 1970 Convention and on the means of strengthening national reports. Moreover, the Committee also examined a series of proposed amendments to the Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property and recommended that the revised Code, including the contributions made by the Committee, be presented to the Intergovernmental Committee at its twenty-second session, which had been postponed to September 2021 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

IV. Legal and practical tools

9. UNESCO and its partners continued to develop and promote legal and practical tools to facilitate and improve the implementation and raise awareness of the 1970 Convention and the Intergovernmental Committee in statutory meetings, capacity-building and sensitization activities, communication materials and on the UNESCO website.

UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws

10. The database contained 3,110 national cultural heritage normative instruments from 189 countries. The database was viewed by 1,000 unique users per month on average. In 2018, UNESCO launched a project to update the database in order to improve the search tool and the visual quality of archived documents and to translate a selection of existing laws into English.

***ArThemis* database on the resolution of disputes involving cultural heritage**

11. In March 2018, UNESCO signed a partnership agreement with the Art Law Centre at the University of Geneva for the development of the *ArThemis* database, to gather records of case studies of return and restitution that have been solved without litigation. The database was openly available to the public. At present, around 150 cases had been published in English and French.

Web alerts in the event of theft of cultural property

12. UNESCO receives regular requests from States to publish international online alerts on stolen cultural property, thereby contributing to international awareness-raising and cooperation efforts to facilitate the restitution of objects. These alerts are communicated to partners and other member States and are also published on the 1970 Convention website. In addition, UNESCO immediately alerts the International

Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and other relevant specialized police units, customs and main art market operators.

V. Awareness-raising activities

13. Several awareness-raising videos were produced by UNESCO in late 2018, such as “Have you ever heard of ‘blood antiquities’?”, in cooperation with the Association for Research into Crimes against Art, which told the story of a region weakened by armed conflict and the looting of antiquities. Another video, entitled “More than 180 trafficked objects discovered in Buenos Aires by the Argentine Federal Police”, dealt with illicitly trafficked goods recovered in Argentina thanks to the international efforts of law enforcement and other actors.

14. In April 2018, edition 87 of the UNESCO *World Heritage* magazine was dedicated to world heritage and illicit trade. The issue explored different aspects of illegal trafficking and trade, as well as restitution cases. Furthermore, in 2019, UNESCO produced a publication on cases of return and restitution in Cambodia, with the aim of raising awareness and promoting good practices. The publication illustrated the efforts taken by the Government of Cambodia to safeguard cultural heritage and on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and the restitution of stolen works of art since 1989.

15. A comprehensive public awareness-raising campaign entitled “Heritage belongs to all of us” was launched in 2018 in Central America in the framework of a project financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. It included materials in various forms of media (audiovisual, radio and press), as well as a number of seminars conducted in universities to raise awareness among students of the issue of trafficking of cultural property.

16. In October 2020, the UNESCO Courier online journal, which is available in six languages, dedicated a special edition to the theme “50 years of the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property”. The same month, UNESCO launched an international communication campaign entitled “The real price of art” to raise awareness among the general public of the disastrous consequences for culture and communities of illicit trafficking in cultural property. The campaign consisted of a series of visuals showing a stolen cultural object (real or of the same typology) from different regions of the world in a private home. Since October 2020, the campaign has been relayed by more than 88 online media sources around the world in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

17. In 2020, the UNESCO Office in Dakar developed several communication and awareness-raising tools for national authorities, local actors and financial partners. These tools included a booklet for law enforcement and security forces in West and Central Africa. In total, 500 copies were distributed to customs officers in the Sahel, along with posters and banners for use in the region’s airports.

Celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1970 Convention

18. The year 2020 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the 1970 Convention, a celebration that was extended to 2021. In order to raise awareness among as many people as possible and to fight more effectively against illicit trafficking, UNESCO organized several major events and implemented various activities.

19. The first quarter of 2020 was dedicated to the creation of a new website aimed at addressing not only professionals but also the larger public. The website then became more interactive, including a special web page that traces the 50 years of

existence of the 1970 Convention and an interactive timeline that provides an overview of its main achievements.

20. The October 2020 issue of the UNESCO Courier highlighted the illicit trafficking of cultural property and presented key regional perspectives, the problems associated with illegal excavations, the possible role of new technologies – including artificial intelligence, ethical considerations, as well as the issue of human rights and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

21. On 1 October 2020, UNESCO organized, in cooperation with the Government of Peru, the “Cusco forum”, a regional technical dialogue on the future of international cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. The event brought together representatives of the 33 member States of the Latin America and Caribbean region, as well as experts, with the aim of strengthening cooperation between countries on current practices in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property. During the conference, experts from the police and the judiciary highlighted the challenges facing the region and presented existing measures at the national and regional levels. Participants also underlined the importance of preventive measures, including legal provisions, regulations applicable to police, security and customs officers, as well as criminal behaviour, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

22. From 16 to 18 November 2020, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, in cooperation with UNESCO, the European Commission and the Council of Europe, organized an international online conference entitled “Cultural Heritage and Multilateralism: Regional and International Strategies for the Protection of Cultural Heritage”. The conference marked the fiftieth anniversary of the 1970 Convention. Discussions focused on two crucial issues for the protection of cultural heritage: illicit trafficking in cultural property, in particular the new challenges created by online commerce; and the consequences of climate change. Among the conclusions of the event were the need to integrate the protection of cultural heritage into all sustainable development strategies and to strengthen the resilience of cultural property to the effects of climate change.

23. As part of this cycle of conferences organized on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1970 Convention, UNESCO organized in April 2021 a regional online conference for Africa with over 500 participants. The conclusions of the conference particularly underlined the importance of ratifying international standard-setting instruments, strengthening legal frameworks, as well as regional and international cooperation to facilitate the return and restitution of cultural property.

24. The launch of the first edition of the International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property, on 14 November 2020, was an opportunity for UNESCO to highlight new challenges linked to illicit trafficking and to stress the importance of international cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking. To mark the occasion, a dedicated web page featured the awareness-raising initiatives and activities organized by UNESCO. States parties celebrated this first edition of the International Day through video messages, made available on the above-mentioned web page, recalling the importance of the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property. In the African region, a press conference was organized on 16 November 2020 at the Museum of Civilizations of Côte d’Ivoire by the UNESCO Office in Abidjan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Francophonie. The Sahel region participated in the celebration by disseminating a digital campaign addressed to the region. More than 300,000 users have benefited from the campaign.

VI. Capacity-building

25. UNESCO continued to undertake extensive training and capacity-building programmes in all regions of the world, in particular in Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia and the Pacific. In order to improve the capacity-building and technical assistance efforts of the Organization in this field, UNESCO launched six regional studies – one for each UNESCO electoral group – on the status of the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and the situation of museums, aimed at providing up-to-date information, statistics and data on the status, mechanisms, priorities and challenges in each region and on needs relating to capacity-development in particular.

26. In Africa, UNESCO, INTERPOL, and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization cooperated on the structuring of national specialized police units for the prevention of and combat against the illicit traffic of cultural property in Southern Africa. This resulted in the creation of standard operating procedures on works of arts and cultural heritage, approved during the Chiefs' annual general meeting, held on June 2019 in Lusaka.

27. In a decision taken at its 209th session, the Executive Board of UNESCO underlined the importance that African countries attach to ensuring the repatriation of all African cultural heritage, including by strengthening the implementation of the 1970 Convention. In this context, UNESCO initiated the preparation of a flagship programme aimed at supporting African member States in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property and promoting return and restitution, as a contribution to the objective set by the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its aspiration 5, for an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics. This flagship programme will focus on the following: (a) raising awareness among the 17 African member States that had not yet ratified the 1970 Convention; (b) capacity-building; (c) the preparation and submission of a standard form concerning requests to the Intergovernmental Committee for return or restitution; (d) the completion of comprehensive national inventories of protected public and private cultural property; and (e) the preventive conservation of cultural objects in museums.

28. The UNESCO Regional Offices for West Africa and the Sahel, Central Africa, East Africa, and Southern Africa carried out capacity-building programmes for key players within the reporting period. Training courses were organized in Liberia in July 2019, in the Niger and Nigeria in October 2019, and in the Niger in February 2020. In June 2020, a two-week online training course for 48 heritage, customs and police professionals from Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal was organized with the contribution of six international and regional trainers. The UNESCO Office in Dakar prepared a study on the relevant regional and international legal frameworks, as well as those of 18 western and central African countries, in order to facilitate comparative analytical studies in this area and to support countries to improve their legal frameworks to protect heritage.

29. The context of the COVID-19 pandemic had a strong impact on the organization and holding of capacity-building workshops. In June 2020, UNESCO organized an online expert meeting with its main partners in the field to discuss the illicit trafficking of cultural property during the pandemic and the reported increase in illegal excavations of archaeological sites, as well as online trafficking.

30. During the meeting, experts confirmed the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had affected the surveillance of archaeological sites and museums. They also stressed that the constraints imposed by the pandemic had increased vulnerabilities and demonstrated the difficulty of applying security measures to

combat illegal excavations and trafficking since the onset of the pandemic. While confirming the increase in online sales of cultural property, mainly from illicit archaeological excavations, they recommended that countries should urgently create specialized police units to monitor Internet platforms and actively cooperate in dismantling illegal sales and make more frequent use of the tools made available by UNESCO and its partners.

31. An international webinar was organized by the UNESCO office in Montevideo in December 2020, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1970 Convention, focusing mainly on the role of the art market and the rise of online sales platforms. The participants were able to highlight the opportunities for collaboration in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

32. Finally, with regards to small island developing States, the UNESCO office in Jakarta launched a study in 2020 on the online illicit trafficking of cultural property in the Asia and the Pacific region. The research focused on platforms that bought and sold antiquities, especially in South-East Asia, and examined the activities of actors such as galleries, auction houses, sellers and buyers in the region and beyond, to better understand the source of the demand.

VII. International cooperation

Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

33. UNESCO cooperation increased even further with partners, such as the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Council of Museums. Those strong partnerships were based on the complementarity of activities and expertise within the field of illicit trafficking of cultural property and were key to promoting the restitution of stolen and/or illicitly exported cultural property, capacity-building, recovery and reconstruction, and assessment and monitoring of information.

34. The partnerships helped strengthen and facilitate the creation of national and regional networks among law enforcement agencies, which in turn ensured better implementation of the 1970 Convention and an overall better participation of relevant stakeholders in all activities and initiatives related to the illicit trafficking of cultural property. In that regard, UNESCO was to organize on 14 September 2021 an international conference on the theme “The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property: for a strengthened global dialogue”, in partnership with the European Union and in the framework of the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the 1970 Convention. The conference would bring together all relevant actors in order to deliberate on a more united and collaborative approach to strengthen efforts at the global level and on concrete activities to be implemented.

Cooperation with the European Union

35. From 2017 to 2019, UNESCO implemented, in cooperation with the European Union, the project entitled “Engaging the European art market in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property”. This project aimed at engaging the European art market in due diligence practices, with a particular focus on – but not restricted to – items originating from countries in a conflict situation or affected by natural disasters. It enhanced the capacities of the 28 member States of the European Union to protect more efficiently their cultural heritage both inside and outside their borders.

One of the outcomes of this project was the development of a massive online open course.

36. From 2018 to 2020, UNESCO also implemented a project funded by the European Union, entitled “Training magistrates and police forces of the European Union in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property”, the main purpose of which was to enhance participants’ knowledge of the main international instruments and tools available and to strengthen the capacities of European Union member States to protect cultural heritage inside and outside community borders. In the framework of that project, a toolkit for European judiciary and law enforcement on fighting the illicit trafficking of cultural property was published, targeting primarily European users by providing, inter alia, information regarding legislative measures specific to the European Union. The first publication to promote the acquisition by both judicial and law enforcement agencies of practical skills for addressing the illicit trafficking of cultural property, it also included all relevant international legal frameworks, case studies and practical tools.

37. Finally, cooperation with the European Union continued, with the implementation of the UNESCO-European Union project on interregional and crosscutting action aiming to strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, which would be implemented until December 2021. With a wider geographical scope, including the European Union member States, the Western Balkans and the partner countries of the European Neighbourhood Instrument South, the project offered activities to strengthen and develop the skills of key professionals, including through a pilot format of peer-to-peer exchanges in small groups in order to stimulate new synergies between countries of origin and transit and destination countries.

Cooperation with the art market

38. UNESCO continued to foster constructive and active cooperation with key stakeholders of the art market regarding the fight against illicit trafficking and, in particular, the implementation of due diligence requirements.

39. UNESCO has always encouraged its member States to cooperate with each other to obtain or facilitate the restitution of cultural property that has been illegally exported, imported or transferred. That approach was supported in a spirit of dialogue and international cooperation.

40. Within the reporting period, the secretariat received 30 requests from States parties to the Convention concerning the return of cultural objects put up for sale by auction. Submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Guatemala, Iraq, Libya, Mexico, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, these requests concerned objects offered for sale in Brussels, London, New York and Paris. In response to these requests, the secretariat sent letters to the auction houses, expressing the concerns of the said member States as to the provenance and the legal basis of the ownership of these cultural objects, and requesting any document justifying their origin. In its letters, UNESCO recommended that the sale of the objects be suspended until the situation could be clarified and the requested documents and information communicated.

41. In 2019 and 2020, UNESCO succeeded in suspending two sales, namely, the sale of a stele from Guatemala in 2019 and that of 114 Tunisian objects whose illegal export had been proven in 2020.

42. The secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with representatives of auction houses, collectors and other actors of the art market to voice the concerns of the member States of UNESCO and the principles of the 1970

Convention. In 2018, UNESCO took part in an event on transparency and information at the European Fine Art Fair, which was held in Maastricht, Netherlands, to examine issues regarding the verification of the origin of artefacts, the evolution of the concept of due diligence and the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

43. UNESCO initiated several consultations with stakeholders of the art market, such as Christie's, Sotheby's and Drouot Patrimoine. It also sent an online questionnaire to auction houses and actors of the art market in order to consult with them on the revision of the International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property, adopted by UNESCO in 1999 and whose revision was requested, as mentioned above, by the Subsidiary Committee at its eighth session, held in October 2020.

VIII. Emergency activities

Security Council resolutions

44. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution [2199 \(2015\)](#), UNESCO, in close cooperation with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, INTERPOL, WCO, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, UNODC, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Council of Museums, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and the International Council on Archives, developed a timeline and road map for international actions focused on coordination mechanisms for information-sharing. A set of guidelines for States to take effective national measures for the implementation of resolution [2199 \(2015\)](#) was also agreed upon by the partners. A reporting form specifically focused on seizures and investigations relating to artefacts from the countries mentioned in the resolution – Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic – was also transmitted to UNESCO member States in March 2015.

45. In order to ensure continual progress and periodic exchange of information in this area, UNESCO requested its member States to update their report on the implementation of the aforementioned resolution, as well as the report regarding seized artefacts originating from countries in this region by 31 January 2018. Responses proved to be useful for UNESCO and have aided it in proposing concrete actions and initiatives to safeguard cultural heritage in the region.

46. UNESCO was determined to support the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2199 \(2015\)](#) and [2347 \(2017\)](#) in cooperation with its partners, building on the important role that culture and heritage plays in dialogue and reconciliation in peacebuilding processes. This is why UNESCO undertook initiatives to raise awareness among art market and financial services professionals in the European Union and to strengthen the capacities of involved stakeholders, both from the countries affected by conflicts and neighbouring countries, in the prevention and countering of the illicit trafficking of cultural property as a source of financing terrorism.

47. Indeed, the aforementioned project, on interregional and cross-cutting action aiming to strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, aimed at enhancing human and institutional capacities of member States on the compliance and implementation of the Security Council resolutions related to the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict and on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, as well as on the roles of the art and banking sectors in the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Emergency actions in conflict zones

48. In addition to its follow-up activities to the relevant Security Council resolutions, UNESCO continued to implement numerous emergency actions, notably in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali and Yemen, countries that required specific responses to fight effectively against the illicit trafficking of their cultural property.

49. Following the adoption of the Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO Actions for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of an Armed Conflict¹ at the thirty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, in November 2015, UNESCO held a series of capacity-building workshops, in cooperation with, among others, with INTERPOL, WCO, UNODC and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. The objective was to train cultural heritage professionals, law enforcement authorities and custom officers from the countries affected by conflict situations as well as from neighbouring countries.

50. In 2018, UNESCO organized a conference entitled “Fight against the trafficking of antiquities in the Mashreq: training programme for specialists in the fight against the looting of cultural artefacts and the illicit trafficking in antiquities”. The goal of the conference was to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen to fight illicit trafficking in cultural property. It was financed by the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO and was held in collaboration with the Association for Research into Crimes Against Art.

51. UNESCO, in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan, organized a training workshop on protecting cultural artefacts against illicit trafficking and during armed conflicts, from 1 to 4 October 2018, in Khartoum. The workshop was held with the aim of reinforcing institutional capacities in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural property and to encourage the Sudan to ratify the 1970 Convention and the UNIDROIT Convention.

52. UNESCO plays a critical role in Iraq, addressing emergency actions to safeguard cultural heritage from illicit trafficking. During the reporting period, UNESCO conducted training workshops on the risk assessment of museums and preventive conservation through the project entitled “Preventive Conservation of Iraq’s Museum Collections and Cultural Heritage Sites at Risk”, funded by Japan since 2017. In addition, it was able to document damaged sites that had been under the occupation of Da’esh, through aerial photography and short-range drone surveys, notably in Mosul.

53. UNESCO also supported the National Museum of Iraq in March 2021 by providing conservation and storage materials, based on the priority needs identified by the museum and the Ministry of Culture of Iraq. This equipment and material will contribute to the museum’s efforts to safeguard and promote its collection. Moreover, it will help museum staff to conduct inventories and update the database of the museum collection, and thus improve collection documentation and storage management. UNESCO launched a similar large-scale support project for the National Museum of Beirut.

54. In Mali, in order to strengthen the capacities of customs, police and gendarmerie, UNESCO commissioned a research study, the results of which were shared with all relevant national stakeholders in order to shed light on the prevention of the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. UNESCO also organized a capacity-building workshop on the protection of cultural heritage from 7 to 9 December 2020. This workshop aimed to train police, customs, gendarmerie and Malian heritage

¹ See https://en.unesco.org/system/files/unesco_clt_strategy_en.pdf.

institutions on the importance of cultural heritage and the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property.

IX. Support from States parties

55. A number of States parties have provided financial contributions in various areas, including:

<i>State</i>	<i>Financial contributions</i>
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the 1970 Convention regular programme budget • Support to human resources of UNESCO
Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the 1970 Convention regular programme budget • Contribution to the fund of the 1970 Convention
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the fund of the 1970 Convention • Support to human resources of UNESCO
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International online conference 2020, entitled “Cultural Heritage and Multilateralism: Regional and International Strategies for the Protection of Cultural Heritage” • Support to human resources of UNESCO
Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the fund of the 1970 Convention
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to human resources of UNESCO • Support to the 1970 Convention regular programme budget
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the fund of the 1970 Convention
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the fund of the 1970 Convention
State of Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the fund of the 1970 Convention

X. Conclusion

56. Since 2018, threats to movable cultural heritage have continued to increase and have taken new forms, while the issue of return and restitution of cultural property has gained unprecedented visibility. Efforts will be pursued to promote the universal ratification of the international normative instruments dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage and cultural property. Efforts will be made also to strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders on the return and restitution of cultural objects to their country of origin and to engage with the art market to ensure the application of due diligence principles, the regulation of online sales of cultural property, as well as of free ports and free trade zones.

57. Member States are encouraged:

(a) To promote the universal ratification the 1970 Convention and the UNIDROIT Convention;

(b) To submit regularly their reports on the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2199 \(2015\)](#) and [2347 \(2017\)](#);

- (c) To report any information regarding seizures of cultural property, especially those originating from a conflict zone;
 - (d) To put in place preventive measures for the protection of their cultural heritage and the cultural heritage of their neighbours;
 - (e) To promote due diligence principles among art market professionals;
 - (f) To intensify cooperation at the national, regional and international levels;
 - (g) To participate in capacity-building workshops to ensure the mobilization of relevant stakeholders, including government officials, police, customs and museum professionals;
 - (h) To promote the implementation of educational and awareness-raising activities on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property;
 - (i) To continue to forge relationships with the private sector, including the art market and the financial and trade sectors, to combat money-laundering in the art market.
-