

# BELGRADE DECLARATION

May 11, 2004

We, the participants\* of the Regional Conference on Preventive Activities in Preservation of Cultural Heritage in the Areas Affected by Ethnic Tensions and Armed Conflicts held in Belgrade on May 10 – 11, 2004 have gathered at the initiative of the ICOMOS National Committee of Serbia and Montenegro, fully supported by all National Committees of ICOMOS of the region, regarding the 2004 March events in Serbia as to loss of lives and devastation of the cultural heritage, religious buildings, residences and other properties. Mindful of the significant damages we gathered in good will and took into account the efforts of the government of Serbia and Montenegro, the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, the present administration in Kosovo and Metohija, all NGOs and others involved.

It is precisely on the basis of professional ethics and responsibility for preservation of cultural heritage as a common good, we adopted by consensus the Belgrade Declaration.

1. We condemn ethnic violence, which caused loss of lives and devastation of precious tangible, intangible and moral values belonging to all communities in the area.
2. We call for international and national institutions to assure permanent and efficient protection of the multicultural heritage of the region of South Eastern Europe to avoid possible tragic events in future.
3. In view of this, we
  - urge for taking emergency measures for saving the damaged buildings and preventing them from further decay;
  - strongly recommend immediate evaluation of the level of damage to the heritage by professional approach.
4. We express our commitment to devote all our efforts to contribute for:
  - finding mechanism for permanent dissemination of precise information about the current state of the cultural heritage in Kosovo and Metohija;
  - addressing the information to all levels of decision-making bodies concerned;
  - involving the ICOMOS Secretariat to review all possibilities for integrating activities with National Committees in Europe and the region;
  - encouraging members of NGOs to take part in common activities for the protection and enhancement of their common heritage and to try to develop in future;

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\* See Appendix 1

- improvement of the attitude towards cultural heritage through education and establishment of multicultural society;

The achievement of this goal is a long and complex process and for its successful realization, we strongly advocate fulfillment of the activities as stated in the enclosed Appendix 2.

Appendixes 1 and 2 are incorporated herein and they are integral part of this Declaration. This Declaration was adopted by the participants and is made in the Serbian, English and French language.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Incorporated part of the Belgrade Declaration**

#### **May 11, 2004**

#### **List of participants:**

1. Marko OMČIKUS, National Committee ICOMOS, Serbia and Montenegro
2. Nicolas AGRIANTONIS, ICOMOS Greece
3. Lazar ŠUMANOV, ICOMOS Macedonia
4. Alkiviades PREPIS, ICOMOS Greece
5. Jovo GROBOVŠEK, ICOMOS Slovenia
6. Adam ARNOTH, ICOMOS Hungary
7. Sorin VASILESCU, ICOMOS Romania
8. Valter SHTYLLA, ICOMOS Albania
9. Hristina STANEVA, ICOMOS Bulgaria
10. Yordanka KANDULKOVA, ICOMOS Bulgaria
11. Hrvoje GIACONI, ICOMOS Croatia
12. Evangelia HADJITRYPHONOS, European Center of Byzantine&Post-Byzantine Monuments, Thessalonike, Greece
13. Alessandro BIANCHI, Istituto Centrale per il Restauro, Rome, Italy
14. Andreas ADAHL, The Swedish foundation Cultural Heritage without Borders, Stockholm, Sweden

15. Krste BOGOESKI, Blue Shild, Macedonia
16. Ferhad MULABEGOVIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural-Historical Heritage, Sarajevo, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
17. Milica KOTUR, Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural-Historical and Natural Heritage, Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
18. Risto TANESKI, Ministry of Culture, Macedonia
19. Slobodan MITROVIĆ, Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Cetinje, Serbia and Montenegro
20. Ilija LALOŠEVIĆ, Regional Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Kotor, Serbia and Montenegro
21. Nadja KURTOVIĆ-FOLIĆ, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro
22. Branka ŠEKARIĆ, National Committee, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro
23. Brana STOJKOVIĆ-PAVELKA, National Committee, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro
24. Sanja KESIĆ-RISTIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
25. Estela RADONJIĆ-ŽIVKOV, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
26. Miladin LUKIĆ, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro
27. Borislav ŠURDIĆ, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro
28. Jovan ĆIRILOV, National Commission for UNESCO, Serbia and Montenegro
29. Ranko MILIĆ, National Commission for UNESCO, Serbia and Montenegro
30. Svetlana BAKIĆ, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro
31. Sava STRAŽMEŠTEROV, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro
32. Dejan RADOVANOVIĆ, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro
33. Mirjana ĐEKIĆ, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro
34. Zoran VAPA, ICOMOS Serbia and Montenegro

35. Radojka ZARIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia - Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
36. Božidar KRSTANOVIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
37. Emilija PEJOVIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
38. Dragoljub TODOROVIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
39. Svetlana VUKADINOVIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
40. Radiša ŽIKIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
41. Miroslav STANOJLOVIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia – Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
42. Gordana SIMIĆ, Steering Committee, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro
43. Zvonimir ZEKOVIĆ, Steering Committee, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro
44. Gojko SUBOTIĆ, Serbian Academy of Science and Art, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
45. Slavica VUJOVIĆ, Association of Conservators of Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro
46. Vera PAVLOVIĆ-LONČARSKI, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
47. Snežana JEJIĆ, Regional Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Smederevo, Serbia and Montenegro
48. Slobodanka PEROVIĆ, Regional Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Pančevo, Serbia and Montenegro
49. Zoran JAGLIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Kragujevac, Serbia and Montenegro
50. Sonja KOSTIĆ, Town Planning Institute of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
51. Vjera MITROVIĆ, Archive of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
52. Mila ŽIVANČEVIĆ-POPOVIĆ, ICOM Serbia and Montenegro

**APPENDIX 2**  
**Incorporated part of the Belgrade Declaration**  
**May 11, 2004**

ACTIVITIES TO REMOVE CONSEQUENCES OF  
DISASTROUS EVENT FALL INTO THREE STAGES AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST STAGE  
**BEFORE DISASTROUS EVENT**

1. Permanent awareness rising

Permanent education and additional education of entire population regardless class or age especially in the regions liable to ethnic tensions should be carried out. At this stage heads of religious communities should have particularly active part regarding values and importance of cultural heritage.

2. Permanent education

Permanent education and additional education of all public servants on the level of state and home rule regarding values and significance of cultural heritage;

Permanent education and additional education of all instruments of authorities (force of order) regarding comprehension, protection and treatment of cultural heritage.

As instruments for education and awareness rising, all kinds of mass media (printed or digital) and services and expertise of governmental and non governmental organizations, national and international organizations such as UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, ICA, IFLA and others should be used. Organizing special presentations, workshops, seminars, conferences and alike can also be used as instruments.

3. Institutional preparation

Adoption and ratification of all international conventions relating to treatment of cultural heritage during the armed conflict and ethnic tensions and its incorporation and implementation in law projects on the national level.

Taking inventory and documentation in full on registered and listed buildings of cultural heritage (according to the national models/systems in conventional or digital model) and identification (the inventory list) of movable and immovable cultural property in the region of possible ethnic tensions. Permanent data updating is indispensable.

Identification of heritage should be done in accordance with the Hague Convention and other protocols.

Making of topographical maps of a state with sites of cultural heritage according to the UNESCO criteria. The maps should be made on the national and local level.

Planning of technical measures by which a treatment on movable and immovable properties is defined. These measures would be applied “in situ” (immovable property) and for evacuation (movable property).

Establishment of bilateral cooperation in fields of exchange of experiences and realization of joint projects, workshops, seminars and conferences on that subject.

Establishment of multilateral cooperation with governmental and non governmental organizations in fields of education, improvement and specialization of human resources and experts (UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, ICOM and others).

Establishment of non governmental national committee “Blue Shield” which basic objective should be treatment of cultural heritage before, during and after disastrous event caused by activities of nature and men.

Making of the National Plan for Protection from Disastrous Events with already incorporated National Plan for Protection of Cultural Heritage. The Plan should be updated and tested.

Establishment of the National Crisis Council having this or other title that should incorporate representatives of various ethnic and religious groups if there are more ethnic and religious groups in the state. This Council would have a significant part as prevention in avoiding and decreasing a degree of devastation of cultural heritage, especially before and during possible ethnic tensions or armed conflict.

## SECOND STAGE **DURING DISASTROUS EVENT**

Activation of the National Plan for Protection from Disastrous Events in the stage when the event is in course, on the national, local and institutional level.

Activation of function of the National Crisis Council.

## STAGE THREE **AFTER THE DISASTROUS EVENT** **(REHABILITATION STAGE)**

Physical guarding (by men) from further devastating of cultural heritage (monitoring)

Urgent dislocation of devastated and undamaged movable property within immovable devastated property.

Preventive treatment “in situ” of devastated buildings in order to prevent further damage.

Urgent assessment (type and volume) of damage followed by full documentation that should be immediately incorporated (updated) in the existing monument data bank.

Making the Priority List for realization of rehabilitating and conserving intervention based on value of monuments, type and volume of damage obtained by the assessment, which was based on research, projection and physical activity. It is especially important that all these activities are performed solely under control of professional national and international experts.

Getting international community, governmental and non governmental organizations acquainted on values of devastated buildings, type and volume of damage – severally and totally for entire devastated buildings. Their cooperation and financial assistance should be called for, especially in conserving and restoring as well as in education, improvement and specialization of human resources of the affected states.

Establishment of the Regional Expert Group as consequence of the latest events that would jointly establish methodology and criteria regarding entry in the data bank, its updating and managing.

Establishment of Expert Regional Group as motive for more efficient rehabilitation and restoration of cultural heritage in the region of South East Europe after all these long standing devastations. The Group should be based on agreement of the National Committees of ICOMOS of this region by delegating their members. Participation of the experts delegated by ICOMOS of Paris is recommended as well.

### **ON KOSOVO AND METOHLJA**

Convoked on the two-day Regional Conference of ICOMOS, we condemn most strongly the March violence at Kosovo and Metohija. The violence resulted in loss of lives and huge intentional devastation of cultural heritage, religious buildings, residences and property.

It is indispensable to prevent unauthorized taking away of movable property from the devastated buildings.

Before taking measures in restoration and full rehabilitation of the cultural heritage it is necessary to prevent further decay of the authentic heritage under professional survey.

Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro  
May 11, 2004