



G20 CULTURE MINISTERIAL

PRIORITY 1 - PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

The Future Will Give Us Back Our Past

Multi-stakeholder Webinar

9 April 2021, 12.00 - 16.00 CEST



MINISTERO
DELLA
CULTURA



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1. BACKGROUND

Cultural heritage and diversity are facing an increasing number of threats and pressures due to emergencies, both natural and artificial. Cultural heritage is constantly the subject of systematic and deliberate attacks in numerous conflicts around the world, as well as looting on an industrial scale. This deliberate destruction is often combined with the persecution of individuals based on their cultural, ethnic or religious affiliation, often as part of a broader war strategy intended to terrorise populations and to destroy their national identity. It can also be an indicator for potential or actual severe crimes including war crimes and crimes against humanity such as ethnic cleansing and genocide. Cultural heritage is also exposed to risks due to catastrophes caused by natural and man-made hazards, as well as by the effects of climate change.

Heritage and creativity, as expressions of identity and deposits of memory and knowledge, are an essential source of support for communities in crisis, both in times of conflict and disaster. Promoting respect for cultural diversity is fundamental to prevent violent extremism, while the meaning of culture in community life makes its continuity essential for disaster recovery and economic development. As a visible expression of common ground between communities, culture can also foster reconciliation and social cohesion in post-conflict situations. Protecting cultural heritage and promoting cultural pluralism in emergencies means working to protect human rights, prevent conflicts and promote sustainable recovery.

Illicit trafficking in cultural property, furthermore, represents one of the most relevant illegal markets worldwide and involve numerous criminal organisations, money laundering and has been linked, in most recent years, with terrorism financing.

COVID-19 has somehow transformed the threats related to illicit trafficking in cultural property. Restrictive measures adopted by Governments have led to the closure of cultural places, museums and archaeological areas, but also a crisis of part of the commercial businesses in the sector. On the one hand, this led to a diminishing of threat caused by the absence of people in cultural places usually opened to the public, but on the other hand limitation of movements emphasised the isolation of remote archaeological areas, leaving them more vulnerable to clandestine diggers. The closing of businesses in the sector, furthermore, led to a rise of web-based transactions. This trend of increased digitalisation, already observed in the last years, however, does not provide useful data to appreciate the transfer of part of the illegal traffic from traditional exchange to network activities.

This multi-stakeholder webinar aims to fill this gap by providing policymakers of G20 countries with the latest evidence to define clear policy objectives and to jointly pursue them through coordinated action. The webinar will be an occasion to analyse the situation, understand international and G20 countries policies and experiences to combat illicit trafficking, intervene in an emergency and imagine a future for cultural property protection. The findings of the webinar will inform the Declaration of G20 Ministers of Culture and will set the scene for further cooperation of G20 countries on these issues.

Key issues and objectives

The webinar will explore how to promote further cooperation and create synergies to better respond to threats to Cultural Heritage, improve coordination and increase the effectiveness in fighting illicit trade of cultural goods. We will also share good practices on the use of new technologies for disaster risk management, in particular by maximising synergies between National and International technologies, monitoring tools and platforms.

Case studies will be analysed to reflect on how international institutions and different countries of the G20 addressed the several issues connected to cultural property protection and fighting the illicit traffic in cultural property.

The objective of the webinar is to single out common points for policy design and action for consideration by G20 countries in the relevant fora, notably the G20 culture working group and Ministerial.



Among the suggestions for possible action, the promotion of a new collaboration network aimed at sharing good practices and joint promotion of innovative experimentations and projects. Cooperation initiatives might include:

- setting up a network of national experts to better tackle the threats facing cultural heritage, support the development of common policies and provide support, under request, taking advantage of the body of knowledge and experience gathered by International Organisations such as UNESCO, the European Union and other relevant international bodies;
- creating a platform to identify knowledge and intervention gaps, facilitate the exchange of information and improve coordination. To develop common technologies capable of real-time data exchange starting from the S.W.O.A.D.S. project;
- supporting pilot actions to identify needs, requirements and best options to facilitate the Cultural Heritage community to better protect cultural heritage from natural and man-made disasters and opening the "Unite4Heritage" initiative to other Countries.

2. FORMAT

Each session of the event will include a scoping presentation (5 minutes) outlining key issues and setting the background for discussion followed by 4-6 presentations (3-5 minutes each) and by brief (3-5 minutes) highlights on G20 countries case studies practices in the area, a Q&A session and a wrap up of key points by the chair. The event will be held on-line.

Working language: English



3. AGENDA

Priority 1 - Protection of Cultural Heritage and Illicit Trafficking The Future Will Give Us Back Our Past	
12.00	Welcome address Dario Franceschini , Minister of Culture of the Italian Republic
12.05	Opening remarks Roberto Riccardi , Brigadier General, Commander of the Carabinieri for the Protection of Cultural Heritage
Session I - "United Against Crime", Intergovernmental, Judicial and Police Cooperation Chair: Ernesto Ottone Ramirez , Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO	
12.10	Introduction by the Chair
12.15	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Chiara Malaguti, President UNIDROIT, <i>Private Law as the basis for effective action</i> • Sophie Delepierre, International Council of Museums (ICOM) - Head of Heritage Protection Department, <i>The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods: the international museum community's engagement and ICOM's actions</i> • Filippo Spiezia, National Member for Italy at Eurojust, <i>Recovery of pieces of art: challenges in judicial cooperation. Eurojust role and perspectives</i> • Corrado Catesi, INTERPOL Works of Art Unit Head, <i>Creating a National Cultural Heritage Unit</i>
12.35	Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilles Dutertre, Senior Trial Lawyer, Office of the Prosecutor - International Criminal Court, <i>The International Criminal Court and the protection of cultural property</i> • Mariya Polner, Senior Policy Advisor, Enforcement and Compliance SubDirectorate - World Customs Organisation, <i>The use of international legal framework for customs seizure and restitution: a case study</i> • Bandar Al-Malaq, Advisor to the World Heritage Unit - Heritage Commission, <i>A view of Saudi Arabia's efforts in combating illicit trade in cultural goods</i> • Zeynep Boz, Head of Department Combatting Illicit Trafficking - Ministry of Culture and Tourism Republic of Turkey, <i>Fighting the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property: A toolkit for European Judiciary and Law Enforcement</i>
12.55	Moderated Q&A
13.10	Conclusions by the Chair



Session II - The soldiers of Venus. Civilian/Military/Police cooperation

Chair: Tara Gutman, International Humanitarian Legal Adviser, Australian Red Cross

13.20	Introduction by the Chair
13.25	<p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of Culture and Emergencies, UNESCO, <i>The role of Culture in Emergency situations: Key Developments & Opportunities for Strengthened Intersectoral Collaboration</i> • Deborah Lehr, Antiquities Coalition Founder and Chair, <i>The Fight Against Cultural Racketeering: Preserving World Heritage, Strengthening Global Security</i> • Paolo Iannelli, Ministerial “U4H” Contact Point, <i>The Blu Helmets for Culture- Task Force MiC-Unite4Heritage</i> Luigi Spadari, Data Processing Unit Head, Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, <i>The Carabinieri TPC and Italian Task Force Unite4Heritage</i>
13.45	<p>Case studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burcu Özdemir, - Chief of Unit Fighting Against Smuggling - Ministry of Culture and Tourism Republic of Turkey, <i>Restitution of the sarcophagus of Sidamara</i> • Noemí Cortés Gallardo Mondragón, Deputy Director of Interinstitutional Relations, Linking Community and Fundraising at the World Heritage Direction in INAH. Represented to the General Director of National Institute of Anthropology and History, <i>Against illicit traffic of cultural property: a solid chain between Italy and Mexico</i> • Suani Gabriela Ramos Alvarado, Mexican National Guard, Agente Mayor, <i>The National Guard in defense of Cultural Heritage</i> • Nico Schouten, Senior Inspector at the Information and Heritage Inspectorate. Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of The Netherlands, <i>Joint execution of tasks by Information and Heritage Inspectorate and Customs in The Netherlands</i> • Zhengxin Huo, Professor of Law - Director of the Department of Strategic Development and Discipline Construction - China University of Political Science and Law, <i>Fight against Illicit Traffic Trafficking of Cultural Property: the Chinese Experience</i> • Valentin Payraud, Finances Judicial Investigation Service - Investigator, <i>A joint investigation on cultural goods trafficking by the French Customs and Police</i>
14.10	Moderated Q&A
14.25	Conclusions by the Chair



Session III - The protection to come. New technologies and new eyes

Chair: Alfio Gullotta, Training and Study Unit Head, Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage

14.35	Introduction by the Chair
14.40	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anas Al Khabour, Expert Member (ICAHM) ICOMOS, <i>Archaeological research and cultural resource management standards and best practices</i> • Jorge Sánchez Cordero Dávila, Mexican Center of Uniform Law <i>In the search of consensus in new Cultural Projects</i> • Salvatore Rapicavoli, Carabinieri HQ, SWOADS project designer, SWOADS (<i>Stolen Works of Art Detection System</i>) • Agnese Ratzenberger, Y20 – <i>The challenge of next generations to supporting cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage</i>
15.00	Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciraj Rassool, Senior Professor - Director of the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies. Department of History, University of the Western Cape (South Africa), <i>Illicit traffic, colonial violence and restitution</i> • Gilda Guerisoli, Art Historian, Staff Officer (Res.), Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, <i>The “Laboratory of Forgeries”</i> • Mohona Chakraburttty, Conservation Architect • Meghna Goyal, Programme Officer, <i>Using technology to integrate heritage into humanitarian assistance - Culture Cannot Wait</i> • Riccardo Moro, C20 Sherpa – Civil 20, <i>The role of citizens, indigenous people and civil society in the protection of cultural heritage and prevention of illicit traffics</i>
15.25	Moderated Q&A
15.40	Conclusions by the Chair
Session IV -Conclusions and the way forward	
15.45 16.00	Presentation by session Chairs of the conclusions and the way forward