



BIMUN 2010 UNESCO World Heritage Committee



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WORLD HERITAGE IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE – A FACTOR OF THE
REAPPROCHEMENT OF CULTURES

Decision

The World Heritage Committee,

Having examined the topic and the problem of rapprochement of cultures in Southeastern Europe and *emphasizing* a unique occasion to reaffirm the key ideas underpinning Organization's commitment, based on the paradigm of a plural humanity where cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are mutually reinforcing and whose implications drive all UNESCO's programmes in the fields of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture and communication and information,

1. *Expresses its conviction* that world heritage in the region of Southeastern Europe should be in the middle of the regional efforts for the cultural rapprochement and better cooperation in finding a way to the permanent peace, progress and stability;
2. *Urges* United Nations member states and all interested parties and entities to provide necessary assistance by contributing cognitively, through scientific cooperation, and by other means that might be found appropriate, in reconstruction of destroyed and damaged sites of religious worship and culture heritage in danger within the region, especially the providence of Kosovo as referred to in Security Council Resolution 1244;
3. *Recognizes*, in the alphabetical order, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia (in further text: countries of the region) as countries especially connected and most interested in this topic;
4. *Further requests* from the countries of the region to submit by the July 1, 2010 reports about the state of conservation of the world heritage in their territory, and measures taken or planned for improving the condition of the sights, for examination by the Committee on its 34th session (Brasilia, July 2010);
5. *Proposes* the extension of BRESCE's activities into the field of education,

- a. *Stresses* the importance of cultural education within all level of schools and universities about Southeastern European country's cultures,
 - i. *Calls* removal countries to make proposals concerning changing compulsory and alternative educational programmes in order to educate better the population about regional cultures;
 - b. *Encourages* practical projects national language, dance, traditional crafts, and the arts through workshops and free, governmentally and non-governmentally funded national and regional festivals;
 - c. *Encourages* researching cultural and natural heritage and creating operative plans which will be suggested to the BRESCE Ministerial Conference for implementation;
 - d. *Reiterates* the importance of language and knowledge exchange via literature conference where those present, students, youth, and professionals, will share their culture;
 - e. *Encourages* the extension of funding of BESCE to other countries who have expressed interest;
6. *Proposes* the foundation of the Regional Council for Educational Exchange, Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage of SEE considered as an independent body consisting of specialists in the fields of protection of Natural and cultural heritage, Education and Science;
- a. *Recognizes* that this institute will have two main goals:
 - i. *Recommends* that there will be a developmental role which would include reinforcing preservation and development of naturally and culturally significant sites and a commercial role which would include supporting cultural sites through financial means and promoting self-sustaining activities (concerning its commercial role, the Foundation is responsible for the promotion, production and hosting of cultural festivals and associated events that are considered economically viable or socially acceptable);
 - ii. *Proposes* that the institute promotes different cultures through regional application to obtain financial help to those who need it;
 - b. *Recognizes* those member states who already support this fund and encourages all other parties interested in supporting the project;
 - c. *Suggests* that the experts within this institute work out decisions concerning problems within their region and the potential solutions to these issues and that these decisions would be submitted to the annual Ministerial conference in BRESCE;
7. *Suggests* that countries within the region promote local UNESCO associations in order to sponsor students to participate in a student exchange not only in the regional, but also internationally;

8. *Suggests* founding of the United Nations Academy of Southeastern Europe that will promote principles stated in the UN Charter, educating future UN experts in the field of natural and cultural heritage and other related disciplines;
9. *Strongly recommends* to the countries of the region considering the possibility of founding new regional scientific institute, within the aforementioned Academy;
10. *Also asks* the countries from the region and other countries interested to find other means of finding this project, which will in the period of ten years be supported and co-financed by the UNESCO and to fund it;
11. Requests from the countries of the region to submit their Reports expressing their opinions and possibilities concerning aforementioned proposals for founding the United Nations Academy of Southeastern Europe and also regional scientific institute and regional foundation by the July 1, 2010 so they could be discussed at the 34th session of UNESCO WHC (Brasilia, July 2010);
12. *Strongly advises* the countries to engage media (including internet, magazines, advertisements, newspapers, books, radio, and television) more actively in order to prevent cultural prejudice and to get citizens acquainted with natural and cultural heritage through replacing part of advertisement by public announcements about these sites;
13. *Proposes* that a regional newspaper, which would be named “Diamonds of SEE” about cultural and natural heritage written both in local and English language be created in the countries of SEE, be financed by the “Trust Fund for Cultural Heritage in SEE” and be distributed free of charge;
14. *Expresses its deep concern* about the world and natural heritage in South-Eastern Europe with special emphasis on endangered sites,
 - a. *Stresses* the importance of respecting cultural and natural heritage while implementing industrial projects, especially in the scope of building the South Stream Pipeline;
 - b. *Encourages* countries to take actions against citizens who deface monuments in their countries and other countries;
 - c. *Further encourages* the repercussions of defacing monuments and architecture be community service;
15. *Proposes* that the countries within the region set up an accountability program in order to hold each other accountable as they make statements concerning reforming education and protection of culture;
16. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE) on preservation and promotion of the World Heritage in Southeastern Europe, hoping that it will be even more successful in the future;
17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its session on the implementation of the present resolution;
18. *Confirms* its readiness to further sessions of discussion on the matter of the World Heritage list and endangered sites.