

STATEMENT FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES IN THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION: LEARNING FROM PRACTICE, WORKSHOP IN OSLO 1- 3 APRIL 2014

- We, participants at the international workshop 'Building capacity to support rights-based approaches in the World Heritage Convention: Learning from practice' held in Oslo, Norway, from the 1st to the 3rd of April 2014, co-organized by ICOMOS Norway, ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN, with support from Norway's Ministry of Climate and Environment, commend the organizers of the Workshop for taking the initiative to convene the meeting, and congratulate and thank the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway for its support to this process;
- We appreciate that the objective of the Workshop was to promote recognition and understanding of good practice for integrating human rights considerations in World Heritage conservation;
- We recall the international workshop 'Our common dignity: Towards Rights-Based World Heritage Management' held in Oslo, Norway, on 9-11 March 2011, co-organized by ICOMOS Norway, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC), with support from Norway's Ministry of Environment, and acknowledge with appreciation its results contained in the Statement of Participants and the papers published in the International Journal of Heritage Studies (vol 18, 3, May 2012);
- We welcome the richness and diversity of approaches and lessons brought up by the case studies presented at the workshop, which show the need and importance of learning from the ground and valuing the local and national practice;
- We emphasize that internationally proclaimed human rights must be upheld, respected and included in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, consistent with the commitment of States Parties to internationally proclaimed human rights;
- We also emphasize that World Heritage Sites should be not only prime places for the conservation of the heritage of humankind, but also for the application of the highest standards for the respect of human rights;
- We recognize that to this end, improved policy guidance, appropriate operational tools, education and capacity building, among other measures, are required;
- We welcome the collaborative work undertaken by the Advisory Bodies since March 2011 to support the integration of rights considerations in World Heritage, and invite them to continue their collaboration particularly for the development of a common framework on rights and World Heritage, innovative approaches, and appropriate tools to support implementation and monitoring with a rights-based approach;
- We therefore invite the Advisory Bodies to confirm through their decision-making organs at highest levels their commitment and engagement in this important process, and to continue working with World Heritage Convention's State Parties for learning from their experiences, successes and challenges in integrating rights in World Heritage;
- We also invite the Advisory Bodies to consider and use the recommendations from this workshop to advance their collaborative work and their engagement with State Parties, indigenous peoples and community organizations, conservation and human rights institutions and experts to advance this agenda, building on what is already available;
- We further invite the Advisory Bodies to present the results of this workshop at the 38th meeting of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Doha, Qatar, in June 2014;
- We call States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to champion the cause of rights-sensitive World Heritage conservation, to showcase their successes and challenges, to put in place actions to further implement it, and to invite other State Parties to join these processes;
- We invite UNESCO to continue facilitating and supporting this process, consistent with its mandate under the World Heritage Convention and with its commitment to human rights under its Constitution.



THE PARTICIPANTS

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