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Greek Ministry of Culture

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Comments of the Greek Ministry of Culture regarding the Draft Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

The Greek delegation has the following comments regarding UNESCO's Draft Guidelines for the Implementation of the 2nd Protocol to the Hague Convention:

- Further clarifications must be given as to the exact role and responsibilities of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), as well as of the other Advisory Bodies referred to in the Internal Regulations of the Committee to the 2nd Protocol (section III.6.1), namely, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).
- 2. Further clarifications are also required in section 5.3 of the Draft Guidelines, more specifically we consider that the phrase "other non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise" is too general and requires further clarifications.
- 3. We consider that in section 5.3 the phrase "In deciding upon a request, the Committee is not obliged to, but should nevertheless ask, the advice of governmental and non-governmental organizations [...]" is problematic and should be replaced by "In deciding upon a request, the Committee is not obliged to, but may, if necessary, ask the advice of governmental and non-governmental organizations [...]" (italics added).
- 4. As regards sections 5.7 and 5.8 of the Guidelines on the subject of the sanctions to be imposed on States-Parties for non-compliance with their obligations under the 2nd Protocol, we propose that a phrase should be inserted that will read as follows: "Cultural monuments shall not be used for military purposes. In case they are used for military purposes against this prohibition, they will be temporarily removed from the list of monuments under Enhanced Protection."