



Human Rights Council

Resolution 6/1.

Protection of cultural rights and property in situations of armed conflict

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles relating to economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005) and Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 that established the Human Rights Council all affirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling also that the General Assembly acknowledged in its resolution 60/251 that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for the collective security and well-being, and recognized that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Acknowledging that human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Gravely concerned about serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law during armed conflicts, in all parts of the world, and their detrimental impact on cultural rights and property,

Recalling the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocols, and stressing the importance of their implementation to protect cultural property,

Reaffirming that the destruction of or any other form of damage to cultural property may impair the enjoyment of cultural rights, in particular of article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

1. *Calls upon* all States to respect human rights law and strongly urges all parties to an armed conflict to strictly observe and respect, as applicable, the rules of international humanitarian law during armed conflicts, and to respect the rules on the protection of cultural property;

2. *Emphasizes* that each party to an armed conflict is committed under international law to take all necessary steps to protect cultural property through safeguarding of and respect for such property, including cultural property situated in occupied territories;

3. *Strongly condemns* any destruction of cultural property in violation of international humanitarian law, as applicable, during armed conflicts;

4. *Emphasizes* that protection of cultural property during armed conflicts can contribute to the full enjoyment of the right of everyone to take part in cultural life;

5. *Urges* States and encourages intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take all necessary measures at the national, regional and international levels to address the issue of protection of cultural rights and property during armed conflicts, paying particular attention to the situation in occupied territories, and to provide appropriate assistance as requested by the concerned States;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations;

7. *Decides* to remain seized of this issue and to consider further actions to implement the present resolution.

*[Adopted without a vote]
20th meeting
27 September 2007*
