



The Recommendations  
of  
**The Seventh Meeting of the Islamic World  
Heritage Committee**

Kuwait

25-27 October 2016

## Recommendations of the Islamic World Heritage Committee

In furtherance of its effort to protect the Islamic civilizational heritage in Member States, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Islamic World Heritage Committee on 25-27 October 2016 in the State of Kuwait. The meeting gathered the representatives of the states parties to the Islamic World Heritage Committee, namely the Republic of the Sudan (rapporteur), the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Malaysia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Mali, as well as representatives of the scientific commission from the State of Kuwait and the State of Palestine. Representatives of Yemen, Guinea and the Union of Comoros were not able to attend.

At the opening of the meeting, Dr Sultan al-Duwaish gave the address of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), wherein he welcomed participants and commended ISESCO's efforts regarding Islamic heritage. He also stated that up to the end of September, Kuwait carried out more than 700 relating activities, as part of festivities marking the celebration of Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2016.

Then, the representative of ISESCO read out the address of the Organization on behalf of its Director General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri. In this address he conveyed Dr Altwaijri's feelings and wishes of success for the meeting and the symposium. He also expressed his thanks to H.E Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, and Eng. Ali Hussein Al-Youha, NCCAL Secretary General. The address highlighted the important role of the Islamic World Heritage Committee in safeguarding the historical and civilizational monuments, and called for finding more ways to join efforts in order to protect the Islamic heritage in all parts of the world. At the end of his address, ISESCO representative presented the meeting programme for the first and second days, in addition to the programme of the International Symposium on the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Islamic World, which was due to be held on the third day in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, and with the participation of specialized experts from the Republic of Turkey, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the State of Kuwait, in addition to the experts, members of the committee.

In his opening address, and on behalf of the Committee's Chairman, Dr. Abdulrahman Ali Mohammed, the Committee's rapporteur, expressed his thanks and appreciation to ISESCO and its Director General for the efforts put in organizing this meeting, pointing out the central role the Organization plays in safeguarding and preserving the civilizational heritage of Muslim peoples, both at the regional and international levels. He also stated that the Committee is committed to addressing the challenges under the existing conditions of heritage protection in several Member States, and stressed the need to intensify joint efforts to preserve the Islamic world heritage from destruction. At the end of his address, the Committee's rapporteur reiterated his welcome to the Committee members and urged them to exert more efforts to meet the hopes and aspirations pinned on the Committee, and give the due care and attention to the Islamic world heritage. He also urged Member States to join UNESCO Conventions for the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

At the close of its working sessions and deliberations, the Committee put forward the following recommendations:

**I. Concerning ISESCO's efforts in safeguarding heritage:**

- Thanking ISESCO and its Director General for the continued support and efforts for the safeguarding of the Islamic World heritage.
- Urging ISESCO to invest more efforts in training specialized technical staff in the inscription of heritage in ISESCO and UNESCO Lists.
- Acquainting Member States, particularly IWHC Member States, with ISESCO's activities and achievements regarding the protection of heritage, and assisting them in implementing these achievements.
- Urging ISESCO to dedicate more activities to the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**II. Concerning the technical report on the new Israeli violations in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque:**

- Lauding UNESCO's Decision (40 COM/7A.13: at the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee, on 18 October 2016) which affirms that al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Buraq Wall are "an exclusively Muslim holy site", and recommending ISESCO to adopt this decision.
- Urging ISESCO to set up a fact-finding commission on the situation of Al-Aqsa Mosque, to take stock of the current status and in the light of the aforementioned UNESCO Decision.
- Commending the adoption of mechanisms to enhance the Committee's performance, and working towards improving its follow-up of the current situation in Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- Adopting the new report on the Israeli violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque and its vicinity, and inviting ISESCO to submit it to the concerned international bodies and organizations.
- Commending the vital role of *Al Mourabitoun*, the Palestinian Authority, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and supporting countries and organizations in protecting the civilizational and cultural heritage in Al-Aqsa Mosque.

**III. Concerning nomination for inscription of sites on the Islamic World Heritage List:**

The Committee examined and discussed the files submitted by Jordan, Mali, Nigeria, Chad, Togo and Kuwait, and reached the following conclusions:

- Approving the file of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to inscribe Ajloun Castle on the Islamic World Heritage List, provided that the file be completed to meet the criteria and conditions adopted in the nomination process, within three months from the date of sending the Members' observations.
- Notifying the Member States having submitted nomination files of the necessary amendments thereto, and inviting them to re-send the files after fulfilling the conditions set out in the nomination file, especially with regard to the translation of the file into one of ISESCO's working languages.

- Continuing coordination and consultation with the competent parties in Member States to ensure accurate completion of the form, while conforming to the conditions, criteria and mechanisms for nomination files.
- Pursuing the provision of technical support to Member States to prepare their files for inscription on the World Heritage List.
- Urge ISESCO to invite Member States to make an exhaustive list of the elements of tangible and intangible cultural heritage at the national level.

#### **IV. Action areas of the Islamic World Heritage Committee:**

- Supporting ISESCO Director General's positions calling for countering the attempts to destroy the Islamic cultural heritage and obliterate its Islamic identity.
- Suggesting that ISESCO provide support to the training programmes for the staff of the States having submitted files for inscription on IWHL, on preparation of nomination files.
- Calling upon organizations and all the states of the world to take all the necessary procedures to protect and preserve the cultural heritage, in accordance with international resolutions.
- Welcoming the inscription of cultural heritage elements of Islamic nature outside Member States of ISESCO.
- Developing the conditions to include a preliminary list of tangible and natural heritage.
- Amending the condition regarding the language used in the preparation of nomination files so that they can be submitted, at least, in two languages, including English.
- Suggesting that the Committee's next Meeting be held in October 2016 at ISESCO's headquarters in the event no Member State offers to host it.

#### **V. Concerning Intangible Cultural Heritage:**

- Calling upon ISESCO to develop a separate form for inscription on the intangible heritage list in the Islamic world.
- Suggesting that ISESCO entrusts a number of experts specialized in intangible cultural heritage with preparing a form for inclusion criteria on above-mentioned representative list, and adapt it to UNESCO's criteria in this regard.
- Urging ISESCO to promote the support of training sessions, training of staff operating in the field of intangible cultural heritage on preparing nomination files, especially those shared among Islamic countries, for nomination for inclusion in the World Intangible Cultural Heritage List.
- Inviting ISESCO to support more awareness-raising activities geared to students and young generations to promote intangible cultural heritage.

Finally, the Committee extends its heartfelt gratitude for the Emir, government and people of Kuwait for hosting the Meeting and sustaining care for the affairs of Islamic heritage.