



Fourth Meeting of the Islamic World Heritage Committee

Final Report

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen: 5-7 November 2013

In furtherance of its efforts to protect the Islamic Cultural Heritage in the Member States, through the Islamic World Heritage Committee (IWHC), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), jointly with the Culture Ministry's General Authority for the Preservation of Historical Cities and the Secretariat of Sana'a, and in coordination with the Yemeni National Commission for UNESCO, held the fourth meeting of the Islamic World Heritage Committee in the capital city of Yemen, Sana'a, from 5 through 7 November 2013, under the patronage of President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi of the Republic of Yemen. As well as pursuing inscription of archaeological and natural sites meeting the criteria and standards for selection on the Islamic World Heritage List, the meeting aimed to examine and approve the intangible heritage inscription list and consider the reports placed on its agenda.

For the record, the Islamic World Heritage Committee convened at a first meeting at ISESCO headquarters, on 15-16 September 2010, with the view to examine its working tools, mandate, working mechanisms and rules of procedure. In the second meeting, held in Cairo from 17 to 18 September 2011, the focus was on adopting the criteria for inscription on the Islamic World Heritage List. The Committee in its third meeting (Tunis, 27-29 November 2012) endorsed the inclusion of the city of Al Quds on top of the Islamic World Heritage List and decided to register the Red Monastery in Sohag, central Egypt, in its list in further confirmation of the keen focus by ISESCO on the promotion of human heritage in general.

The fourth meeting was attended by the representatives of the states members of the IWHC: namely, Egypt, Senegal, Niger and Malaysia, along with the representatives of ISESCO, the Culture Ministry, the General Authority for the Preservation of Historical Cities, the Yemeni National Commission for Education, Culture and Sciences, and Sultanate of Oman. While Iran failed to attend, Tunisia apologised for not attending.

Opening Session

The opening session started in the morning on 5 November 2013 with a statement by Dr Abdelkareem Ahmed Al Matari, Director General for Studies and Information Exchange at the Yemeni National Commission for UNESCO. He welcomed the participants, expressing gratefulness and appreciation to Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO, for choosing Yemen to play host to this very important meeting.

For his part, Dr Abdelaziz Salah Salem, representing ISESCO, conveyed the Director General's greetings, and pointed out to the importance of this meeting which he said was devoted to completing the tentative list of cultural and natural sites for inscription in the Islamic World Heritage List for this year, in line with the

Committee's inscription criteria and standards. He also highlighted the role of the IWHC in the preservation of human heritage for future generations.

Also speaking at the opening session, Yemen's Culture Minister Dr Abdullah Aupal expressed gratitude and appreciation to ISESCO Director General Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, and affirmed the Ministry's readiness to boost cooperation with ISESCO.

The working sessions started according to schedule, with agenda items featuring presentation of the documents pertaining to the IWHC, along with examination and discussion of tentative list submissions for inscription on the Islamic World Heritage List. After confirmation of nominations of sites to the Islamic World Heritage List, by relevant Member States' authorities through their National Commissions, and following deliberations, the Committee decided what follows:

1- Inscription of New Sites on the Islamic World Heritage List:

- Inscription of "Bandiagara" mosque in Mali on the Islamic World Heritage List.
- Inscription of "Al-Mustansiriya Madrasah" in Iraq on the Islamic World Heritage List.
- Inscription of Abbasid Palace (al-Qasr al-Abbasi) in Iraq on the Islamic World Heritage List.

2- Inscription of Sites in Danger on the Islamic World Endangered Heritage List:

- Inscription of Resafa in Syria on ISESCO Endangered Heritage List.
- Inscription of Kharab Sayar in Syria on ISESCO Endangered Heritage List.

3- Inscription Deference:

- Defer inscription of the Murwab Fort in Qatar and **contact relevant parties to provide the Committee's General Secretariat with illustrative documents and pictures, and arrange for a field visit for the Committee's members to check the site for authenticity and integrity.**
- Defer inscription of the Ajloun Fort in Jordan **until selection criteria are satisfied. It was also decided to contact the relevant parties to provide the Committee's General Secretariat with the inscription submission in English.**
- Defer inscription of Tin Mal Mosque in Morocco **until selection criteria are satisfied. It was also decided to contact the relevant parties to provide the General Secretariat with the inscription submission in English.**

- Defer inscription of Kazima (early Islamic settlement) in Kuwait **until selection criteria are satisfied.**
- Defer consideration of the nomination submitted by Pakistan until it is presented in a second language (the submission was only in English).
- Defer consideration of the nomination submitted by Kazakhstan until selection criteria are satisfied, and the submission is made in a second language (the nomination was presented only in English).
- Defer consideration of the tentative list submitted by Malaysia until selection criteria are satisfied, and the submission is made in a second language (the representative of Malaysia promised in the meeting to complete the nomination).
- Defer inscription of the property list submitted by Yemen (Shibam, Kawkaban, Tawila and Al-Masna'a) until selection criteria are satisfied, including through provision of pictures, maps and other illustrative material.
- Defer inscription of Rosetta (a port city in Egypt) until selection criteria are satisfied.
- Defer consideration of the nomination submitted by Senegal until presented in a second language (the submission is available only in French).

4- Provision of Support:

- Provide material support to complete the restoration and maintenance works of Badiagara mosque in Mali.
- Provide material support to restore a home adjacent to Chinguetti Mosque in Mauritania.
- Provide material support to the relevant parties in Senegal to prepare and translate its tentative list, in conformity with the IWHC inscription criteria and standards.
- Provide material support to compile and complete the submission regarding Rosetta (Egypt) in two languages and present it as would fit the criteria for inscription on the Islamic World Heritage List.

5- Intangible Heritage:

After consideration of UNESCO World Heritage Committee Intangible Heritage List Submission Format and discussion of its elements, the IWHC called on ISESCO to assign a world-class intangible heritage expert to prepare an inscription format in this regard to be submitted to the Committee for consideration in its upcoming meeting.

6- Islamic Heritage Protection Fund:

The Committee invited ISESCO to set up a fund for the protection of cultural and historical sites inscribed on the Islamic World Heritage List.

7- Fifth Meeting:

The representative of Egypt submitted a request to host the fifth meeting of the Islamic World Heritage Committee at the Nubian Museum in Aswan (Egypt), as part of contribution to promoting the Nile Valley civilization.

At the close of their fourth meeting, the participants commended the efforts by ISESCO to safeguard cultural heritage in the Member States, as manifest in its commitment to advance the mission of the Islamic World Heritage Committee. They also invited ISESCO to pursue efforts to foster joint Islamic action for the preservation of the Islamic identity.

The participants also addressed a message of thanks to the Republic of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Culture (General Authority for the Preservation of Historical Cities), the Secretariat of Sana'a (Directorate of Old Sana'a) and the Yemeni National Commission for Education, Culture and Sciences for so generously hosting the fourth meeting of the Islamic World Heritage Committee.