



## Executive Board

Hundred and eighty-seventh session

(Paris, 21 September-6 October 2011)\*

## 187 EX/Decisions

PARIS, 30 November 2011

### **Implementation of 35 C/Resolution 49 and 186 EX/Decision 5 relating to the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem<sup>1</sup>**

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 187 EX/5,
2. Recalling previous UNESCO decisions, including 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting/Decision, and the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) relating to the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem,
3. Also recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including in the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the relevant provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982), and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,
4. Reaffirming the purpose and spirit of the professional encounter at the technical level of 13 January 2008, as well as the follow-up meeting of 24 February 2008,
5. Noting the Sixth Reinforced, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Monitoring Reports and its addendum prepared by the World Heritage Centre,
6. Recognizes the concerns raised in this regard about the decision by the Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Commission on the town planning scheme for the Mughrabi Ascent, and the subsequent decision by Israel's National Council for Planning and Construction to adopt "an alternative plan for the Mughrabi Ascent", approved on 31 October 2010 by the above-mentioned Commission;
7. Requests that, despite the decisions mentioned in paragraph 6, the process for the design of the Mughrabi Ascent be inclusive of all parties concerned, in accordance with the obligations and duties of such parties, as stipulated in the content of previous World Heritage Committee decisions;
8. Reaffirms in this regard, that no measures, unilateral or otherwise, should be taken which may affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, in accordance with the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972 and the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954;
9. Notes the request made by the World Heritage Committee in previous decisions, and asks, in this regard, that the Israeli authorities continue full cooperation with all concerned parties, in particular with Jordanian and Waqf experts;
10. Acknowledges receipt of the Jordanian design for the restoration and preservation of the Mughrabi Ascent, submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 27 May 2011, and thanks Jordan for its cooperation in accordance with the relevant provisions of UNESCO conventions for the protection of cultural heritage;
11. Affirms, in this regard, that the UNESCO-initiated process for the follow-up of the design of the Mughrabi Ascent, which is aimed at proactively facilitating an accepted and monitored solution concerning the Mughrabi Ascent among all parties concerned should be coordinated with all such parties, in accordance with the spirit and content of previous World Heritage Committee decisions;
12. Acknowledges in this regard, the concerns raised regarding Israel's submission and the content of its alternative plan for the Mughrabi Ascent, referred to in paragraph 6, and requests that the World Heritage Centre be proactive and follow closely, in the context of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism, the developments associated with this process;
13. Notes with satisfaction the access provided by Israel to the Mughrabi Ascent for Jordanian and Waqf experts on 23 May, 8 August and 28 November 2010, and reiterates its request that Israel continues the cooperation commenced with all parties concerned, in particular with Jordanian and Waqf experts to enable agreement on, among all parties concerned, and implementation of a final design for the restoration and preservation of the Mughrabi Ascent;

14. Also notes in this regard, reports of preliminary discussions between Jordan and Israel concerning the Mughrabi Ascent, which stipulate, *inter alia*, that no measures, unilateral or otherwise, shall be taken on the site, in accordance with paragraph 8 above, and the necessity of an accepted design and implementation thereof among all parties concerned, and welcomes the recognition by the parties concerned of the need for coordination on this issue;

15. Expresses its thanks to the Director-General for the action she is taking to facilitate the dialogue and professional exchanges among all the parties concerned;

16. Reiterates the call by the Director-General to organize a follow-up meeting of experts as soon as possible, once the parties concerned have reached an agreement;

17. Invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report on this matter at its 189th session.

(187 EX/SR.7)

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by consensus.