

## CONCEPT NOTE

### International Scientific and Practical Online Conference

#### **“WORLD HERITAGE SITES: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES FOR URBAN HERITAGE”**

**dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the World Heritage property “Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” on UNESCO World Heritage List**

*Kyiv, 10 December 2020*

#### **Background**

On 12 December 1990, the World Heritage Committee at its 14th session in Banff (Canada) approved the inscription of “Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” on UNESCO’s World Heritage List under criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

The architectural ensemble of St. Sophia Cathedral and the monastery complex of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra became the first World Heritage site in Ukraine. Being a State Party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), Ukraine celebrates the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the aforementioned property on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2020.

Two of the components of the Property - “St. Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings” and “Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” – are located within the boundaries of the National Conservation Area “Saint-Sophia of Kyiv” and National Kyiv-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Preserve, and are managed by their administrations. These site components are organically integrated into the surrounding landscape, cultural and urban context.

The relationship between the listed areas and their urban contexts creates an ideal condition for the implementation of sustainable management practices at the national and local levels, and makes the site a suitable location for discussions concerning the sustainable management practices in relation to World Heritage sites and their contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In September 2015, all countries of the UN committed to work towards a common transformational agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development that has today become one of the key concerns for international cooperation. Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet. Sustainable development is premised on three key pillars that are crucial to harmonize: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies”. The World Heritage Committee decided to adopt the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy in 2015 (Decision 40 COM 5C) and has subsequently requested the development of tools and guidance to help States Parties to mainstream sustainable development in conservation efforts and gather good practices (Decision 43 COM 5C and Decision 43 COM 5D).

Cultural heritage — both tangible and intangible — and creativity have a significant role as drivers and enablers for achieving sustainable development, contributing directly to its economic, social and environmental aspects. Cultural heritage has a substantial economic potential, in particular regarding tourism, job creation, and through some intangible cultural heritage. At the same time, cultural heritage sites can serve as models for sustainable development and innovative strategies for integrating heritage

conservation with social inclusion and resilience in ways that promote cities that are safe, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient in line with Goal 11 of the UN 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

UNESCO has recognized the interconnection between heritage conservation and sustainable urban development most specifically in the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape that looks at interconnections between built heritage, local communities, and the natural environment in historic cities. The approach and methodology sees conservation of heritage as a resource for sustainable development.

In order to ensure its protection, cultural heritage requires implementing an interdisciplinary approach to urban heritage conservation, management and promotion, and at the same time establishing policies and sustainable development strategies that preserve and promote its diversity and uniqueness. These actions must be carried out through collaboration with multiple stakeholders at international, national, regional and local level. The *UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators* is a framework whose purpose is to measure and monitor the progress of culture's enabling contribution to the national and local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where the framework is organized across four themes (<http://whc.unesco.org/culture2030indicators>).

Leading from the above reflections and guiding documents, the International Scientific-Practical Conference "World Heritage Sites: Sustainable Development Practices for Urban Heritage", will be held in Kyiv on 10 December 2020, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the inscription of "Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra" on UNESCO World Heritage List.

This event will aim to discuss the prevailing challenge and opportunities for urban heritage to contribute to sustainable development and to enhance the capacities of the World Heritage properties site managers in contributing to prosperous, resilient and peaceful cities.

### **Conference Format**

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, and conditioned by the restrictions applied worldwide, the Conference has been organised in two stages. The first stage includes an online meeting in December 2020; the second one will be an on-site conference, planned for 2021.

### **Key Objectives**

The main objective of the conference is to raise awareness and build capacities amongst World Heritage site managers in Europe and their working teams and networks regarding the role of culture and cultural heritage in achieving sustainable development. This will be achieved through the exchange of scientific and knowledge-based experience of national and international experts. At the same time, the conference aims to identify which factors prevent the realization of culture's full potential for economic, social and environmental sustainable development.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The online conference will serve as a commemoration of the anniversary of the inscription of the Site "Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra" (No 527bis) to the World Heritage List. As a result, the participants will have the opportunity to become acquainted with practices and initiatives in the framework of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy and the framework of the UNESCO

Culture/2030 Indicators (following the thematic areas) represented by the invited speakers, as well as exchange opinions and outline some key lessons to share.

The main outcome of the full conference will be a draft series of case studies of practices and initiatives to enhance sustainable development in World Heritage cities discussed during the conference and especially concerning the tools and measures for integration of principles and fundamentals of sustainable development into the management of urban World Heritage properties.

Video recordings and a summary report will be publicly available after the conference.

## **Target Audience**

Site managers of urban World Heritage sites within the European region and the Eastern Partnership countries, representatives of national and local authorities, international experts, representatives of Ukrainian properties in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, representatives of state institutions, non-governmental and public organizations that operate in this field.

## **Thematic Areas**

**I. Historic Urban Environment** (sustainable management and conservation of natural and cultural heritage, physical and spatial aspects of the urban environment including resilience and Climate Action)

**II. Prosperity and Livelihoods** (the role of culture in livelihoods and its contribution to inclusive and equitable economic development)

**III. Knowledge and skills** (transmission of knowledge referring to the local cultural values, enhancement of heritage conservation skills)

**IV. Inclusion and participation** (transmission of values and skills that foster cultural integration; understanding and respect for cultural diversity; involvement of local communities into decision-making processes; inclusive management processes for World Heritage properties).

**V. Peace and Security** (promotion of culturally pluralistic strategies for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties; reference to the relevant frameworks of conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict recovery in the management system).

## **Working languages**

English, French, Ukrainian

## **Format**

Online conference (Zoom Platform).

Kyiv, 2020