



Dereli Model United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Study Guide for Dereli Model United Nations

Written by Nehir Duru and Elif Ukuşlu

nehirduru628@gmail.com & elifukuslu@gmail.com



Contents

Welcoming Letter.....	3
Introduction to UNESCO.....	4
Introduction to the Committee.....	5
Member States.....	6
Agenda Item.....	7
Topic A.....	7
Topic B.....	13



Welcoming Letter

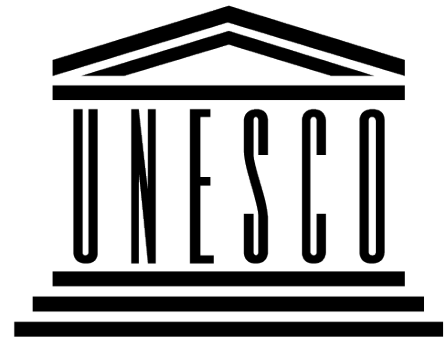
Dear Delegates,

It is an utmost pleasure to welcome you to DERMUN 2023 and most especially to this demanding committee, UNESCO. We are delighted to be serving as the Board Members of this committee and are excited to meet you all. We will give our best to provide you with the best experience possible. We are sure that intense debates will take place regarding this unique topic ***“Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Heritage”*** and all of you will be able to express their country’s policy directly. As the board of this marvellous committee, we kindly ask you to start your research and preparation as soon as possible. With a productive reading, this study guide will help you a lot; but to access broader information, we recommend you to do a comprehensive research about the policies, particularly the policy of your country. We are looking forward to meet you and to board this committee. Let’s put an end to this letter with a UNESCO quote, shall we? ***“Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.”***



Introduction to UNESCO

In 1942, European countries who were confronting Nazi Germany met for the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME). After the war ended, representative of 44 countries established UNESCO. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contributes to peace and security by promoting international cooperation in education, sciences, culture, communication and information. It works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. The countries that are members of this organization are the Member-States of the United Nations. Each one of the 58 members has one vote in UNESCO's General Conference that is held every two years in order to set the organization's budgets and evaluate the contributions of each member to live up to the goals set by the agency. In our committee you, our beloved delegates, will be one of these members to represent the countries perfectly.





Introduction to the Committee

Our committee takes place in 2027. World needs UNESCO, due to the fact that the countries we stated below, are struggling with a world war, which has been on for 3 years. In 2023, in the middle of Russia- Ukraine War, Greece sent an ultimatum to England. Their occasion for war was the fact that England trafficked the Greek heritage as well as the other historical works, and are exhibiting them in The British Museum.

Subsequently, French colonies in Africa rebelled against France due to the same reason. In the sequel, the countries whom cultural heritage has been trafficked or destructed deliberately (like Turkey, Egypt vb.), started to rebel. And all these events caused a worldwide war.

The aim of this committee is initially, to stop this war and negotiate between opponents. And most importantly, to prohibit the trafficking and deliberate destruction of historical works, which particularly takes place in times of war. We are going to be debating with this purpose.



Member States

1. England
2. United States of America
3. Greece
4. France
5. Turkey
6. Denmark
7. Egypt
8. Switzerland
9. Germany
10. Iraq
11. Russia
12. Ukraine
13. Italy
14. Afghanistan
15. Syria
16. Canada



Agenda Item

The two agenda items for our committee,

Topic A: Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Heritage

Topic B: Deliberate Destruction of Cultural Heritage

Topic A: Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Heritage

Summary

Illegal trafficking of cultural property is a type of smuggling where the materials in direct relation with the cultural heritage of a nation and values of humanity are in question.

Trafficking in cultural property is becoming an important source for the laundering of the proceeds of crime, and has been recently identified as a possible source of financing for terrorist groups. It involves several acts that may ultimately result in the loss, destruction, removal or theft of irreplaceable items.



Background

From past to the present, there has been many acts of illicit trafficking especially in times of armed conflict. UNESCO is fighting against these acts, such as;

Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970 UNESCO Convention)

It is the pioneer and most broadly ratified international convention that exists on the issue of illicit trafficking in cultural property. The Convention clearly states that “the export and transfer of ownership of cultural property under compulsion arising directly or indirectly from the occupation of a country by a foreign power shall be regarded as illicit”.

It defines preventative measures State Parties should undertake, including:

1. creation of inventories, export certificates, monitoring trade, the imposition of penal or administrative sanctions, and educational campaigns.
2. The implementation of measures, consistent with national legislation, which prevent museums and similar institutions within their territories from acquiring cultural property originating in another State Party which has been illegally exported;
3. Prohibiting the import of stolen cultural property in another State Party to this Convention.
4. States Parties undertake, at the request of the State Party of origin, to take appropriate steps to recover and return any such imported cultural property.





Due to the articles of this convention,

1. On 18 March 2022, the **Germany**,
handed over four illegally transferred
cultural objects to Italy, that were seized in
Germany.

2. On 4 March 2021, **Germany returned**
four precious artefacts to Egypt. The objects
were confiscated by German police authorities
in 2017. They were illegally excavated from the
tomb of the Late Period vizier Baken-Re-Nef at
the Saqqara Necropolis in Egypt.



3. On March 16 2015, more than 60 Iraqi cultural treasures illegally
brought into **the United States** were returned to **the Republic of Iraq**.

4. On 26 October, **France** has restituted to **Egypt** eight
archaeological pieces seized by the French customs in January 2010.

5. On March 2013, a gold brooch depicting a "winged seahorse" was
returned from **Germany to Turkey**.

The brooch, stolen from a museum in
Usak, Turkey, in 2005, was seized by the
German authorities in 2012.





The Acts of Governments

a. Greece wanted historical artifacts and cultural assets that Britain have smuggled nearly 200 years ago (according to Greece's allegations), to be one of the prerequisites for post-Brexit trade

negotiations. Greece has been demanding the return of the "Elgin marbles" exhibited in the British Museum in London for a long time. UNESCO offered to mediate in the resolution of this dispute between Greece and England in 2014, but the British Museum rejected the proposal, arguing that the organization could only work between governments, not museums.



b. The Louvre permit of to artifact smuggling. According to the news in the French press, Martinez, the former director of the Louvre, was detained. It is stated that the countries mentioned in the investigation regarding the smuggling of historical artifacts are Egypt, Libya and Syria.

c. The David Collection in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, hosts important Islamic artifacts in Europe. In the museum, which houses a rich art collection from the birth of Islam to the 19th century, the artifacts smuggled from Turkey and which Ankara has officially requested to be returned draw attention. There is also a sarcophagus whose figure belongs to the Akşehir Seydi Mahmud Hayrani Tomb, and a candlestick from the Hacı Bayram Veli Tomb.

d. In New York City, USA, it has been made compulsory by law to provide information about the history of artworks looted by the Nazis during World War II and exhibited in museums today. The law requires museums to put up signs identifying items looted by the Nazis from 1933 to 1945. The Metropolitan Museum of Art determined that 53 works in its collection were seized or sold under pressure during the Nazi period. Among those works, there is a Turkish helmet. According to experts, at least 600,000 works of art from the Jews were looted during the war.



Topic B: Deliberate Destruction of Cultural Heritage

Summary

According to Lazare Eloundou Assomo, director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, the damage to historic sites is having terrible consequences on the country's cultural identity. Cultural heritage is an important component of the cultural identity of communities, groups and individuals, and of social cohesion, so that its intentional destruction may have adverse consequences on human dignity and human rights.

Background

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization meeting in Paris at its thirty second session in 2003,

Recalls the tragic destruction of the Buddha's of Bamiyan that affected the international community as a whole,

Expresses serious concerns about the growing number of acts of intentional destruction of cultural heritage,



Recalls the principles of all UNESCO's conventions, recommendations, declarations and charters for the protection of cultural heritage,

Adopts and solemnly proclaims the present declaration; The international community recognises the importance of the protection of cultural heritage and reaffirms its commitment to fight against its intentional destruction in any form so that such cultural heritage may be transmitted to the succeeding generations.

UNESCO: Deliberate Destruction of Ukraine's Cultural Heritage Could Be Considered as a War Crime

Since the Russian offensive began on 24th February 2022, the damage or destruction of nearly 100 culturally important sites in Ukraine have been verified by the UNESCO. Several theatres, museums, churches, and other historical buildings in attacked cities have had their windows shattered, their walls laced with bullet holes or have been entirely crumbled to pieces from shelling.



Afghanistan - UNESCO Calls for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in its Diversity

The Buddha's of Bamiyan (or Bamyan) were the 6th century monumental statues carved into the side of a cliff in the Bamyan valley of Hazarajat region in central Afghanistan. On orders from Taliban founder Mullah Omar, the statues were destroyed in March after the Taliban government declared that they were idols. International and local opinion strongly condemned the destruction of the Buddha's. Amid the rapidly unfolding events, and twenty years after the deliberate destruction of the Bamiyan Buddha's, Audrey Azoulay "calls for the preservation of Afghanistan's cultural heritage in its diversity, in full respect of international law, and for taking all necessary precautions to spare and protect cultural heritage from damage and looting.



UNESCO Condemns the Intentional Destruction of a Historical Mosque and Mausoleum in the Hodeida Governorate of Yemen

UNESCO condemns the intentional destruction of the Ahmed Al-Faz Mosque and Mausoleum in Hodeida, located on the coast approximately 30 km from the World Heritage property of the Historic Town of Zabid. The General Organization of Antiquities and Museums (GOAM) in Yemen confirmed, in a statement published on 23rd October, that the building was destroyed by extremists on the previous day.