

Draft Resolution 1.1

Committee: ECOSOC

Topic: The Protection and Return of Cultural Artefacts to their Countries of Origin

Signatures: United Kingdom

Sponsors:

The ECOSOC,

Deeply Convinced that cultural properties, with deep and close connections with the national identity of its original countries, is of significant value and importance and should be protected and preserved by all member states,

Recalling the valuable contribution of UN subsidiary bodies, NGOs, relevant regional and subregional organisations and arrangements for the protection and restitution of cultural properties and commending in this regard the convention documents signed on the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (abbr. 1970 Convention) and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, in order to mainstream protection and restitution mechanisms, in close partnership with UNESCO, as well as the EU Guidelines on the Property Right Claim of Cultural Properties, in close collaboration with the General Assembly, UNESCO, UNIDROIT and ICPRCP of the detailed implementation of the protection and restitution issues,

Noting that the 20th session of the Committee will be held on 1 and 2 October 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France to further revise and examine the follow-up to the recommendations adopted by its 22 Members at the 19th session (October 2012),

Revising the ICPRCP implementation of Decisions and Resolutions in the 1970 Convention on multiple cases of restitution requests for cultural properties and artefacts,

Expressing deep concern about the illegal occupation of cultural properties by certain countries and private collectors in contravention of applicable international law,

Delivering further concern regarding the high number of cultural artefacts that are being illegally sold and transported by international blackmarkets,

Urging all countries to sign and ratify the above conventions mentioned and other instruments of the framework to ensure the protection and restitution of cultural artefacts and properties,

Welcoming all countries to improve the current situation of cultural artefacts,

Fully aware that the loss of cultural assets is of great tragedy to any member nations,

To act under the guidance of UN General Assembly, as well as implementing the Resolutions of the 1970 Convention,

