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“Dialogue for Peace and Global Security: Cooperation and Interconnectivity”

4th Plenary Session

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(Auditorium)

“Safeguarding our past and future: Cultural heritage in the face of Climate change”

Moderator: Mr. James Bridge, Chief Executive and Secretary-General of UK's National Commission for UNESCO

Keynote speaker: Ms. Saadat Yusifova, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Panelists:

- **Dr. Jinfeng Zhou**, Secretary-General of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF)
- **Ms. Nupur Tron**, Founder and Director General of Foundation Frison Horta
- **Dr. Hesham El Askary**, PhD, Advisor to ICESCO Director-General
- **Mr. Paul Michael Taylor**, Director of the Smithsonian's Asian Cultural History Program, Curator for Asia, Europe, and the Middle East in the Smithsonian's Anthropology Department, USA
- **Mr. Albino Jopela**, Executive director of the African World Heritage Fund
- **Ms. Sabina Hajiyeva**, Head of the State Service for Protection, Development, and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, Azerbaijan
- **H.E. Mr. Adam Al Mulla**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO

Introduction:

Climate change poses a significant threat to our planet's cultural heritage, endangering historic sites, artifacts, and traditions that are integral to human identity and history. As the impacts of climate change continue to intensify, there is an urgent need to safeguard our cultural heritage for future generations. The session on "Safeguarding Our Past and Future: Cultural Heritage in the

Face of Climate Change" provides a crucial platform for advancing dialogue and collaboration on the intersection of climate change and cultural heritage preservation. By exploring innovative solutions, sharing best practices, and generating actionable recommendations, this session aims to mobilize collective action towards protecting our cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change. Through collaborative efforts and strategic investments, we can ensure that our rich cultural legacy remains resilient and accessible for future generations, even in the face of environmental challenges.

Objectives:

1. To raise awareness about the threats posed by climate change to cultural heritage sites, artifacts, and traditions.
2. To highlight the importance of integrating climate resilience into cultural heritage preservation efforts.
3. To showcase successful initiatives and best practices in safeguarding cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change.
4. To explore the role of technology, community engagement, and international cooperation in mitigating the effects of climate change on cultural heritage.
5. To generate actionable recommendations for policymakers, heritage practitioners, and the broader community to enhance climate resilience and safeguard cultural heritage.

Key Themes:

- **Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage:**
 - Examine the specific threats posed by climate change, including sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and temperature fluctuations, to cultural heritage sites and artifacts.
 - Highlight case studies and examples of cultural heritage sites already experiencing the effects of climate change.
- **Integrating Climate Resilience into Heritage Preservation:**
 - Discuss strategies for incorporating climate resilience into cultural heritage preservation planning and management.
 - Explore innovative approaches to adapt existing heritage sites to changing environmental conditions while preserving their cultural significance.
- **Community Engagement and Local Knowledge:**
 - Recognize the importance of community engagement and indigenous knowledge in climate resilience efforts for cultural heritage.
 - Showcase examples of community-led initiatives and traditional practices that contribute to the protection of cultural heritage from climate change impacts.
- **Technology and Innovation in Heritage Preservation:**
 - Explore the role of technology, such as remote sensing, digital mapping, and 3D modeling, in monitoring and preserving cultural heritage sites threatened by climate change.
 - Discuss the potential of innovative solutions, such as climate-controlled storage facilities and sustainable building materials, in enhancing the resilience of cultural heritage.
- **International Cooperation and Funding Mechanisms:**
 - Identify opportunities for international cooperation and collaboration in addressing climate change impacts on cultural heritage.

- Discuss funding mechanisms, partnerships, and policy frameworks that support climate resilience efforts for cultural heritage preservation on a global scale.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the most significant threats posed by climate change to cultural heritage sites and artifacts?
2. How can we integrate climate resilience into cultural heritage preservation practices?
3. What role do local communities play in safeguarding cultural heritage from climate change impacts?
4. What innovative technologies and approaches can help protect cultural heritage from climate change?
5. How can international cooperation and funding mechanisms support climate resilience efforts for cultural heritage preservation?



Dr. Jinfeng Zhou

Dr. Jinfeng Zhou is the Secretary-General of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), a leading independent environmental NGO based in China. He was a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) for the ninth, tenth and eleventh session, Standing committee member of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and Vice-Chair of the National Association of Vocational Education China (NAVEC) for the ninth and tenth session.

He is an Executive Committee Member of the Club of Rome, a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) of IUCN, an expert of the Global Pact for the Environment, an expert to the ISO/TC 331 on Biodiversity, a researcher at the Theoretical Research Base of Environmental Justice of the Supreme People's Court of China, and Deputy President of China Nonstate Technology Entrepreneur Association. As a trained scientist, Zhou Jinfeng has proposed theories of "Equal Rights of Carbon" (ERoC), "Biodiversity Conservation in Our Neighborhood"

(BCON), "Four Principles of Environmental Governance", "Three Axioms of Ecological Restoration", "Human-based Solutions" (HbS), and "Community Conservation Areas" (CCAfa).



Saadat Yusifova was born in 1974. In 1998, she worked as a journalist in "Her Gun" newspaper. She is a doctor of philosophy in law. She worked in various positions in the Presidential Administration.

In 2014-2019, she headed the Political Analysis and Information Assurance Department of the Presidential Administration.

In 2019, Saadat Yusifova was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Department of Work with Non-Governmental Organizations of the Presidential Administration under the presidential decree. Saadat Yusifova is a graduate of Baku State University and Robert Schuman University in France.

In 2023, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has signed a decree on the appointment of Ms. Saadat Yusifova as the Deputy Minister of Culture.



James Ömer Bridge

James runs the UK's National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) and represents it as Secretary-General at UNESCO headquarters and to its 194 member states. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was elected President/Chair of the UNESCO National Commissions' meeting at the March 2024 UNESCO Executive Board meeting. He is an Alternate member for the UK on the UNESCO Executive Board.

James works on UNESCO strategy, policy and joining up the local to global element of the UK's UNESCO sites and designations and the global network of 200 National Commissions for UNESCO. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Jodrell Bank Observatory World Heritage Site and the Institute for Global Innovation, He worked on EU Trade and Partnership Agreements at the European Parliament; was a stagiaire at the Secretariat-General of the European Commission; worked at the UK Financial Services Authority; and ran the Brussels offices of the Law Societies, Save the Children International, MHA Associates and the start up Internet company I-Wave Limited.



Nupur Tron

Creator of Haute Jewellery "Nupur –Paris"

Founder of "Foundation Frison Horta""A Living Museum" (Victor Horta Art nouveau)

Consultant for Heritage and Culture

Culture Philanthropy & Business Head for Europe India

Chamber of Commerce EICC Brussels

Working Extensively in the field of "Heritage & Culture" Consultant in Luxury Life Style "Art de Vivre".

Nupur Tron , incarnates the Image of a young modern Indian woman, living in Paris and Brussels. Consultant and Curator of Heritage ,Art & Culture.!With her Enriched sensibility for Europe and India for the Past 20 Years Promoting Culture between East and West.

Foundation Frison Horta is an Organic, Living Bridge between the East and the West Aiming to Revive Heritage, Culture and Fine Craftsmanship of a "By-Gone Era" through Restoration, Preservation and Sharing which is also the Philosophy of the Foundation. Open to the public for the first time in History since 1894 a discovery of a Hidden Jewel.

An Extraordinary Example of a Time Capsule of Horta with its Original Furniture and Art Decorative, Making it a Living Museum Connecting the Past to the Future.



Hesham El-Askary, Ph.D.

*Prof. of Remote Sensing and Earth Systems Science
Director Earth Systems Science and Data Solutions Lab
Schmid College of Science and Technology, Chapman University,
USA,*

*Advisor H.E.Dr. Salim M. AlMalik, Director General ICESCO
Ex-Vice President of Egyptian Space Agency, Egypt
CEO and Founder GeoAct Inc. CA, USA*

Prof. Hesham El-Askary, a distinguished figure in the realm of Earth System Science, holds a pivotal position as a Professor of Remote Sensing and Earth Systems Science at Chapman University's Schmid College of Science and Technology in the USA. As the Director of the Earth Systems Science and Data Solutions Lab, his contributions extend beyond academia through his advisory role to the Director-General of ICESCO and his foundational leadership at GeoAct Inc., a consultancy firm specializing in earth observation and geo-information technologies.

With a Ph.D. in Computational Sciences and Informatics from George Mason University, Prof. El-Askary's academic accolades include the prestigious Senior Wang-Fradkin Professorship award from Chapman University in 2015. His expertise has significantly contributed to the advancement of Earth System Science, particularly in the study of natural hazards, climate change, and environmental challenges using cutting-edge remote sensing technologies and data sciences. His endeavors in these areas have led to impactful projects funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020, including the notable delivery of the first analytical solar Atlas of Egypt, an essential document for solar energy investment in the region.

Prof. El-Askary's professional memberships include IEEE, AGU, EGU, COSPAR, and Phi Beta Delta Honor Society, reflecting his respected status in the global scientific community.



PAUL MICHAEL TAYLOR, a research anthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution since 1981, is Curator for Asia, Europe, and the Middle East in the Smithsonian's Anthropology Department, and he serves as Director of the Smithsonian's Asian Cultural History Program. He received his Bachelors degree *summa cum laude* from UCLA in 1975 and his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1980, both in Anthropology.

Aside from his Smithsonian position, Paul Taylor serves as Senior Consultant for Social and Resettlement Issues for the World Bank Inspection Panel, and he served (1993-2016) as Director of Ethnographic Film Development for Essential TV (Overseas) Ltd., developing twelve documentary anthropological films. During his studies of rural social, ecological, and poverty-alleviation issues, and his work on documentary films, he lived for over four years in small tribal or rural villages of Southeast Asia.



Dr Albino Jopela is currently the Executive Director of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) an intergovernmental organization created in 2006 by the African Union and UNESCO to support the effective conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in Africa. Dr Jopela is also the Chairperson of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) and a Research Fellow at the University of Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique) and the University of Cape Town (South Africa). He is the past co-chair of the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) for Africa and the Middle East and also served as Advisor to ICOMOS on World Heritage. A Mozambican born pan-Africanist heritage scholar and practitioner, Dr Jopela strives to improve the lives of African professionals and communities by strengthening the capacity of individuals and organizations and empowering them with knowledge and skills to transform African heritage into a resource for sustainable development of the continent while addressing the challenges of climate change.



Sabina Hajiyeva - Head of the State Service for the Protection, Development, and Restoration of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

From 1988 to 1994, she received higher education in the architecture faculty of the Azerbaijan Institute of Construction Engineers (later Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, currently Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction). She continued her education in the postgraduate program at the same university from 1994 to 1998.

In 1998, she defended her dissertation on "The mutual relationship of Muslim and Christian religious architecture of the medieval Azerbaijan" and obtained the title of "Candidate of Architecture" (Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture). In 2013, she defended her doctoral dissertation on "Architectural heritage of the Northwest region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, its preservation and utilization problems" and received the title of "Doctor of Science in Architecture."

Since 2019, she has been a professor at the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction. From 1994 to 2003, she worked in various positions at the "Landscape Architecture" department of the Azerbaijan Institute of Construction Engineers. Since 2003, she has been working as an associate professor and professor at the "Architecture Structures and Monuments Restoration" department of the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction. From 2016 until her recent appointment, she served as the head of that department.

In 1997, she completed courses on "Housing construction policy" in Japan and in 2001, she completed courses on "Preservation of historical architecture heritage in cities experiencing modern development" in the United States. From 2005 to 2009, she led international projects on "Inventory of historical buildings in the Inner City of Baku" in collaboration with the University of Minnesota and Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, as well as projects on "Cultural heritage and local development" with the University of Florence. She is the co-author of several projects for the restoration and conservation of historical monuments. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Azerbaijan Union of Architects. She was awarded the "Taraqqi" medal by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2016 and was given the honorary title of "Distinguished Architect" in 2021. By the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 1, 2023, she was appointed as the head of the State Service for the Protection, Development, and Restoration of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



H.E. Mr. Adam Al Mulla – Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO

After receiving his bachelor's of science in chemical engineering from OSU, Al-Mulla pursued his master's of science degree in chemical engineering at WVU. After graduating in 1998, he stayed at WVU to pursue a Ph.D. in chemical engineering, which he completed in 2002.

During one such visit in the summer and fall of 2007, Al-Mulla was involved in a project funded by GE Plastics (later SABIC Innovative Plastics) that focused on developing an eco-friendly Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS). This plastic was made by General Electric in Parkersburg, WV, and was used to make computer and printer housings and other goods.

In his role as delegate, Al-Mulla has many responsibilities. Al-Mulla ensures UNESCO-sponsored projects and conventions are implemented as well as providing updates on cultural and educational happenings in Kuwait. He also evaluates and repairs World Heritage Sites to preserve the living heritage of various countries and works with the International Bureau of Education-UNESCO in Geneva to create educational equality initiatives and sports programs with the intention to promote peace among nations.