



International Committee of the Blue Shield

Torino Declaration

Resolutions for the First Blue Shield International Meeting

The representatives of the founding members of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICA, ICOM, ICOMOS, IFLA) and of the National Blue Shield Committees in Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Madagascar, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom and Ireland, and Venezuela, and the representatives of Cultural Emergency Response and Cultural Heritage Without Borders, in Torino, Italy, on the occasion of the first international meeting of the International and National Committees of the Blue Shield;

Mindful of the right and the responsibility of each country to protect its cultural heritage, and referring to the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity unanimously adopted by UNESCO in 2001, supporting the project to develop an international convention on cultural diversity as recommended by the 32nd General Conference and affirming the 2003 Declaration concerning the International Destruction of Cultural Heritage;

Recalling the *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* adopted at The Hague in 1954, its First Protocol of 1954 and its Second Protocol of 1999 which entered into force on 9 March 2004;

Recalling the founding objectives of the ICBS of April 1996 and its Charter concluded in Strasbourg on 14 April 2000;

Deeply concerned by the effects of human-made and natural disasters devastating both movable and immovable cultural heritage:

1/ Recommend that the *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* adopted at The Hague in 1954, the First Protocol of 1954 and the Second Protocol of 1999 be signed and ratified by all states parties to UNESCO and to the United Nations;

2/ Recommend that the United Nations and other international organisations include the protection of the movable and immovable cultural heritage, and of vital records, from destruction and displacement in the mandate of their peace support operations (1), encourage national governments to include the

protection of the movable and immovable cultural heritage from destruction and displacement in the mandate of their humanitarian operations;

3/ Recommend that governments and relevant organisations of the United Nations act to prevent looting and destruction of cultural heritage sites and buildings and illicit trade in cultural property,

4/ Considering the importance of risk preparedness, response and recovery, recommend that cultural heritage professionals and others integrate these stages into their programmes;

5/ Recommend that ICA, ICOM, ICOMOS and IFLA national members should create a National Committee of the Blue Shield, where such committees do not exist, and urge national authorities to support these committees' roles and actions to protect movable and immovable cultural heritage in the event of natural or man-made disasters, and

6/ Decide to establish and strengthen the ICBS as a visible, effective entity.

Adopted in Torino on 24 July 2004.