

Blue Shield 25th Anniversary Conference

1 - President Stone: Welcome

Peter Stone: Hello, everybody. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Peter Stone and I am the President of the Blue Shield. I welcome you all, whether you are a Blue Shield member or not, to this 25th anniversary conference. I hope that you have all received information about your opportunity to watch the destruction of memory film. Please, if you haven't seen that, do take that option and watch it. It is a fantastic, although very depressing, stimulating program so please do take that opportunity if you can.

Without further ado, I'm going to pass over to Emma Cunliffe, my colleague from Newcastle. I should just say at this point that without Emma's tireless work we would not be here today. She has done an extraordinary amount of work on this so we should all thank her when we can. We have her to thank that all of this has run smoothly and that the voting has also run smoothly. Also, thank you to those of you, for the General Assembly, for your votes. So thank you very, very much to Emma.

2 - Emma Cunliffe - Celebrating our 25th Anniversary

Emma Cunliffe: I'm welcoming you all here to celebrate our 25th anniversary and that's a huge achievement for us. The only way to start an anniversary, going forward, is to look a little bit about going back and see where we come from, to really contextualise what we have achieved as an organisation.

Initially, in 1955 a member of the Red Cross, who was at the drafting conference for the 1954 Hague Convention, wrote that he hoped to count all those who work under the Blue and White Shield, which today we just think of as the Blue Shield, amongst the faithful allies of the Red Cross. In 1991, the first discussions about The Blue Shield started, but it wasn't really until 1996 that it was founded by ICOM, ICOMOS, IFLA, and ICA, our four heritage organisations who we will hear from shortly. We have to really acknowledge the contribution here of Charles Keskemeti of the ICA, who I believe passed away recently, but he was very instrumental in founding The Blue Shield. We will learn a little bit more about that.

So we were founded eventually on the 6th of June 1996 and we've been celebrating since the 6th of June 2021, to protect the Blue Shield from conflicts and disasters. It was named after the emblem identified in the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, to identify cultural property protected under the Convention.

Now we don't have a photo of that founding but we know it took place during the break of the ICOM Executive Board lunch. In the photo of the meeting in Radenci in 1998, you can see our founders where they discussed our founding principles as an organisation. There is Patrick Boylan on the left, of ICOM, George Mackenzie, of the ICA, Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff, of International Federation of Library Associations, and on the right is Dinu Bumbaru, of ICOMOS. These four people represented, then, the Vice President of ICOM, a member of the International Executive Committee of ICOMOS, the ICA Deputy Secretary General, and the Director of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Core Activity. They brought together a huge amount of expertise.

As George Mackenzie wrote at the time, "the Blue Shield was founded to bring together the knowledge, experience and international networks of four expert organisations: ICA, ICOM, ICOMOS and IFLA. These represent an unrivalled body of expertise to advise and assist in responding to events such as war in former Yugoslavia, hurricane damage in Central America or earthquakes in the Far East. The great strength of Blue Shield is that it is cross-sectoral bringing together professions and institutions across the cultural spectrum. By pooling their expertise, and drawing in military authorities and emergency services, the Blue Shield offers a powerful model for managing disaster risks at a national level. One of the strengths of the initiative of the Blue Shield is that although it is principally oriented towards the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, it does have an important role in mitigating and managing disasters. I think that's one of the aspects that makes it a truly international initiative and of universal appeal. In moments of natural disaster, the same need for cooperation exists and such cooperation results in the same benefits".

As I'll talk about a little bit more, one of the things that I've been trying to do all year is collecting information for archives by our founding. Whether it's articles written by our founders or photographs, and to hear more about where we came from, to look at where we are today.

Following the establishment of the Blue Shield, in 1999 Second Protocols to the Hague Convention, the International Committee of the Blue Shield was a recognised advisory body to the Intergovernmental Committee for Cultural Property Protection in Armed Conflict, a position we still hold today and which we attended in that capacity at the Hague Convention meetings. In 2000, the Strasbourg Charter was established, the ethical principles that mirror those at the Red Cross which we still hold true today. The first National Committees were also established, and in the photograph you can see, here again, our founders in Strasbourg. But we also have two other people here, and if anybody knows who the gentleman or lady is, on the far right, we'd love to hear more about them. We also have to really acknowledge the contributions here of Gaia Jungeblodt, of ICOMOS, and of IFLA as well.

It was Marie-Thérèse who was really instrumental in forming our first National Committees. She wrote, "since its creation it has been obvious that the efficiency of ICBS would be enhanced by the creation of national Blue Shield Committees. It is vital for the international initiative to be taken up and supported by local initiatives. The real value comes when you can transfer the international cooperation to a national and sub-national level and get direct cooperation".

Well, today we're starting to realise that. We have 28 registered committees, six more whose paperwork is in progress, and another eight who have declared their intention to register a National Committee and who are working on that at the moment. These really are all around the world: Africa, America, and Europe. If anybody out there happens to be in Asia or the Middle East, we would really love more committees there to join Korea and Lebanon, so please consider it.

In 2003, the ICB selected its first President, Ross Shimmom. In 2004, it held its first conference where the Torino Declaration strengthened the organisation, followed by so many National Committees founding that they formed their own association of National Committees to coordinate them, the ANCBS. They, in turn, held their first conference in 2008. However, in 2016 it was realised that having two different routes, the ICBS and ANCBS, wasn't perhaps the best way to go. ICBS and ANCBS amalgamated to become simply the Blue Shield, the organisation we have today. Today, on our 25th anniversary, we have 28 National Committees, key Heritage partnerships with our founding four, UNESCO, and others key partners like NATO and the ICRC who we are going to hear from.

We work to do a lot of proactive protection before armed conflict and disaster strikes and training in those areas, as well as providing support during crises and responding after emergencies. If you'd like to find out a bit more about some of this and about our founding, we have a communications pack on the website, or you can just download it. You should be able to get to it from the front page. Please do have a look at that.

We started our anniversary celebrations with a panel, interviewing our four founders, and talking about the creation of Blue Shield and what they envisaged for the organisation. That was chaired by the first President of the ANCB who went on to become the first President of Blue Shield in 2017, Karl Habsburg, together with our current President, Peter Stone. It's a really fascinating look at both the situation at the time, for example they talk about the critical events, such as the shelling of Dubrovnik, that inspired them to go and form this organisation. And also to look at what inspired them going forwards after that. It's all available on our website so please have a look if you're interested.

Because we are the Blue Shield and the Hague Convention leaves the placement and design of Blue Shield up to the National Authorities, we've been collecting shields from around the world from countries that have supported us with the national shield. I just wanted to highlight a few of these and I just pulled out a few of my favourites, personal preference. From a recent trip to Krakow in Poland, they have four different blue shields just in the one city, and I love the diversity and the different amounts of information that you have about these really important monuments. So everywhere you go, the city highlights its heritage and what's really important to the people there. Another one is from Italy, from the mediaeval town walls, and for many years it was the only blue shield in Italy so it's really quite important. There is a new one that's going to be going up in Lebanon, and I love it because it has QR codes to show you what you can do with technology. People can just get their phone and find out more about the Blue Shield, what it stands for, what it means, and how it indicates protected buildings. There is the triple emblem of

special protection at Oberriedstollen in Germany, and you can see it on the entrance to the mine, where documentary archives are stored, but also on the tiles on the floor. There are only 14 such sites in the world. The historical monuments of Mtskheta in Georgia, is one of the sites under enhanced protection and of which there are only 17 in the world, as of last year.

This is a personal favourite, it's Lieutenant Colonel Tim Purbrick of the British cultural property protection unit. He has stepped down now but he was absolutely instrumental in founding that unit in the UK, the Hague Convention calls on State Parties to create specialist cultural protection units and I just love the picture of him for what it represents in cultural property protection in the field.

The photograph of training in Georgia shows little blue shields being used in training and awareness raising in armed forces in peacetime, as preparation activities.

The Netherlands ran an exhibition in a castle called Slot Loevestein, that was a refuge for cultural property in World War Two. They used blue shields to raise awareness of blue shields in their country, and little plaques were for audience participation to write what you thought about the exhibition.

My actual favourite, because I just think this is wonderful, is Blue Shield France and it's part of their training and awareness program and its Playmobil Museum, where they are raising awareness and teaching about disaster management.

But it's not just obviously about what Blue Shield has done, so we've been collecting the information from our National Committees around the world to showcase their work and there's some really fantastic things going on. So we've got presentations from all of them on our website, we're continuing to update those, we have one or two a month. Please do go have a look at their work and it's a fantastic opportunity to showcase what Blue Shield has been doing around the world, and there's some really fantastic examples of cultural property protection.

For some of our anniversary activities, some National Committees have been sharing historical examples of their work. These are just ones I happen to have photos of. There have been seminars, this is Ireland, this was Iceland and the Netherlands cooperating on the lecture series, which I think is brilliant because collaboration is one of the Blue Shield's strengths, that ability to share expertise.

The Greek Committee of the British children seminar series, the UK income in collaboration with the cultural property protection unit, had a panel looking at what is cultural property protection and exploring what it means to different people and that's available on their website.

Poland held a conference about protecting cultural heritage against hazards, best practices. Turkey, one of our newest committees, has just hosted a conference about protecting cultural heritage in disasters and crises.

Germany has been doing interviews with people involved in cultural property protection not only in Germany, but in this one that I've highlighted, with Blue Shield Mali, again showing that cooperation, and the ability to work across continents.

We've been doing interviews with our founders and with our national committees, and these are going online shortly (we're just finishing them off at the moment). These give an insight into the work of the organisation and cultural property protection more widely, and I do hope you'll be able to look at them once they're online.

But none of this could have been achieved without a massive thank you to Etienne Clément, Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff and Patrick Boylan for their time and generosity in contributing to our archives; to Jessica Barry, Brittni Bradford, Lawrence Brenner, Martyn Cox, Yasaman Nabati Mazloumi, and Marcela Szalanska, who have been our volunteers and interns in preparing these and supporting these activities throughout the year. We honestly couldn't have done most of this without you all, and we're extremely grateful, and I'd just like to thank you all.

And to everybody, welcome to our 25th anniversary. It's a real pleasure to have you with us, and thank you very much.

3 - Gerald Leitner, Secretary General of IFLA

Gerald Leitner: Dear colleagues and friends. My name is Gerald Leitner and I'm the Secretary General of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. We are proud to be one of the four founding organisations of the Blue Shield, together with the other organisations that were centred on this panel.

IFLA is the voice of libraries. We represent over 1400 members from 150 countries in all regions and work together with a large network of dedicated volunteers. We work mostly to help libraries around the world provide the best possible service to users, and to advocate for the policies and laws that will facilitate this work. We envision a strong and united global library field powering literate informed and participatory societies to access the world's cultural heritage and support for those who safeguard it. It is a vital part of creating these societies. We work to achieve this mission through our mission to inspire, engage, enable and connect the global library field.

I'm very happy to be addressing you virtually, to offer congratulations to Blue Shield for the work that has been carried out over the past 25 years, and to join you in looking ahead to the future. I want to start with a quote, in fact the quote that opens IFLA's principle of engagement in library related activities in times of conflict, crisis, or disaster. Culture is a basic need. A community thrives through its cultural heritage. It dies without it. This belief is at the heart of IFLA's engagement with cultural heritage. Libraries are guardians of the memory of the world. They safeguard an essential part of our cultural heritage and enable the communities to access, enjoy, learn from, and be inspired by it. Therefore, IFLA works globally to raise awareness of the

role of libraries in the preservation of and access to cultural heritage, and to advocate for meaningful and supportive policy that allows libraries to continue this work. We look to our network for stories and inspiration from the experience that will help power this advocacy for the development and implementation of policy that will support the long term preservation and accessibility of cultural heritage, and highlight the role of libraries in this.

In parallel, we strive to bring together professionals working in libraries on preservation access, enabling professional exchange and knowledge sharing. IFLA's membership and body of volunteers network consist of a diverse community of members and experts, driving forward preservation practice to exchange research standards, development, and education of learning opportunities. One important aspect is IFLA's preservation and conservation centres, called PAC. These centres, hosted in libraries around the world, are hubs of knowledge in their regions, and assist IFLA in monitoring and responding to potential threats.

In this, we do not work alone. We engage with international organisations, such as UNESCO, to line our work, seek collaboration, and engage with member states. And of course, collaboration with the other founding members of Blue Shield. The International Council of Archives, The International Council of Museums, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites on the board of Blue Shield, as well as in other activities, is a vital aspect to connecting cultural heritage work in libraries to that of other memory institutions and sites. To ensure that the world's cultural heritage remains accessible, being prepared for and responding to threats and disasters, those natural and human caused, is of the utmost importance.

Cultural property and the institutions that house it, face a multitude of threats, including an ever growing spectrum of hazards associated with climate change. And most relevant for us today is those that come with armed conflict. Therefore, engaging in disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery is a task that memory institutions cannot ignore. Documentary cultural heritage, such as books, manuscripts, and all the visual material, is especially vulnerable in disaster scenarios. It can be fragile, and particularly susceptible to damage caused by fire, insects, pests, water, and humidity. It can be targeted in situations of armed conflict for ideological reasons and can be easily stolen and difficult to identify when illegally trafficked across borders. Unfortunately, over the years, we have seen documentary heritage come under threat, due to armed conflict, and by other natural and human caused disasters.

So how to respond. IFLA approaches this challenge, through the lens of our mission. We strive to inspire library professionals to default your attention to disaster risk reduction and cultural property protection, in their professional practice. We also strive to ensure that the library voice and perspective is included in global approaches to cultural property protection, and that cultural heritage is integrated in vitalist management and resilience efforts. In doing this, we engage with both our membership and with international partners.

Clearly networks like Blue Shield international provide a focal point for efforts to raise awareness of threats to cultural heritage from man-made disasters, at the national level as well as an international forum to improve emergency preparedness, by sharing experiences and

exchanging information. The involvement of IFLA at the international level, as well as key library stakeholders at the national level, is a valuable way to include libraries in this work, and build collective capacity to safeguard and protect our memory.

Looking beyond this, we have also been ready to contribute to these efforts and relay and reinforce the work of organisations, like Blue Shield, in our support to the library field. This work has also offered useful lessons. In response to turmoil in Syria and Mali, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, IFLA developed our principles of engagement in library related activities in times of conflict, crisis, or disaster. The principles aim to encourage safeguarding in respect for cultural property, especially by raising awareness and promoting disaster risk management, and the strengths, preparation, and participation in cultural heritage activities through UNESCO, and Blue Shield initiatives and activities. We continue referencing this high level document to guide our actions such as monitoring areas at risk, educating for and raising awareness about disaster prevention, and reacting to and engaging in particular recovery situations.

So our experience in responding to disasters, the critical need for information at early stages has become apparent. After disaster strikes, it becomes increasingly difficult to collect the information that can inform possible response and recovery efforts. Therefore this becomes a crucial step in preparedness efforts. Particularly relevant to this regard, is IFLA's risk register which is an initiative that we continue to develop to help us respond quickly when disaster strikes, and be better informed in our engagement with the international community in facilitating a response. The risk register is a confidential list of documentary heritage materials and collections, and the relevant accompanying information. We seek to use this tool to provide an additional contribution to efforts to make risks to cultural heritage. When necessary and with permission from the relevant institutions, IFLA can share the information on the registers with partners, such as UNESCO and Blue Shield international, to inform the response. The experience of Beirut last year, has only underlined the importance of such registers and often needs to be able to assess damage and needs quickly. This will certainly be a key area of focus for us in the coming year and we hope to be able to work with Blue Shield partners to ensure the best possible results.

The point that we keep coming back to through our engagement and cultural property protection, is the need to work together to safeguard the world's cultural heritage. This need was acknowledged by the founding four organisations of the Blue Shield 25 years ago. Over the years since, the continuously expanding number of National Committees of the Blue Shield increases the potential of this network, bringing together cultural heritage experts at the national and regional level. To address threats to cultural heritage in their own context is an invaluable resource to safeguarding cultural property. We mirror this at the international level, where the spirit of collaboration between the museum, monument, site, archive and library field, that inspired the Blue Shield 25 years ago, is still going strong. IFLA highly values this collaboration and hopes to continue working together with the Blue Shield Secretary, our fellow board members, and all the dedicated professionals working in the National Committees. We

congratulate Blue Shield for fostering this spirit of collaboration and, in doing so, making meaningful strides over the past 25 years to safeguard the world's cultural heritage.

Now to look ahead to the next 25 years. We hope to continue encouraging library professionals to strengthen partnerships with fellow cultural heritage professionals working at other memory institutions and sites. Reinforcing ties across the heritage field will help strengthen our collective capacity, and strengthen our voices in calling for cultural property protection commitments to be upheld. We also will continue to underline the importance of considering documentary heritage as an essential part of heritage as a whole, and to make sure that its specific needs are recognised. To do this, we encourage all those working in National Committees now who are interested in taking part in the future, to actively exchange with your colleagues in the library field. Involve your National Library Association and individual libraries in new initiatives. Find out what they are already doing to safeguard the cultural property in their collections.

Again, the only way we can meaningfully protect the world's diverse cultural heritage is by creating space for collaboration between all stakeholders, including museums, libraries, archives, and sites, government officials and military personnel.

Over the coming 25 years, IFLA looks forward to contributing to the spirit of collaboration at the international level and encouraging our membership in the engagement at the national and regional levels. I will close by reiterating the opening message that culture is a basic need, communities need access to the cultural heritage to build resilience to thrive.

Cultural heritage connects us to one another. It creates a shared memory of the world that we must ensure remains accessible for future generations. Through involvement in Blue Shield, we can combine our experience and knowledge in our specific areas of expertise to advocate for policy and actions to protect cultural property, and to respond to threats, with the support of a dedicated, knowledgeable, and diverse global network.

IFLA and I look forward to continuing this work with you all. Thank you so much, and all the best to you.

4 - Alberto Garlandini, President of ICOM

Alberto Garlandini: Dear friends and colleagues, as President of ICOM, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Blue Shield, I am honoured to speak alongside the representatives of our fellow co founders of Blue Shield. General Leitner, secretary general of the International Federation of Library Association Institutions, Teresa Patrício, President of the International Council of Monuments and Sites, and Emilie Leumas, of the International Council of Archives. ICOM, IFLA, ICA, and ICOMOS are Blue Shield's founding father.

Since 1996, we have guided Blue Shield to protect heritage from all kinds of emergency and threats, natural or man-made. Together, we work to facilitate international responses to offer our expertise and advice in cases arising under the 1954 Hague Convention. We promote safeguarding and respect for cultural property. We consult and advise our intergovernmental partners. We coordinate action at national and regional level.

As one of the founding four, ICOM has always used its own network as an influence to advocate and train for emergency response, to launch fact finding missions into regions under threat, to support all museums facing imminent crisis, to facilitate exchanges between museum and heritage professionals, to distribute information and raise awareness.

ICOM has just celebrated its 75th anniversary. ICOM is now a global network with almost 50,000 members from 140 countries and territories. Thanks to its global network, ICOM manages to protect heritage in all regions across the globe. In 1996, my dear esteemed colleague and former Vice President of ICOM, Professor Patrick Boylan, together with representatives of the other founding four, recognised the potential of a joint action of the network of ICOM, ICA, ICOMOS and IFLA. Together, our networks call upon thousands of members to protect heritage as the Red Cross goes on volunteers to save lives in times of crisis.

At a lunch at ICOM headquarters in Paris, in April 1996, the representatives of our four organisations drafted the agreement that formalised what would become known as Blue Shield. In a joint meeting earlier this year, Patrick Boylan recalled that the work to create Blue Shield started earlier than 1996.

In 1991, the experiences of the Yugoslav and Gulf wars were a wake up call to the threats facing heritage. Even though there were instruments in place to protect heritage, both at national and international levels, those conflicts inflicted terrible destruction on heritage, intentionally or accidentally. In the aftermath, professionals were left questioning the ability of those instruments to effectively protect heritage and respond promptly to unexpected crises.

At the ICOM General Conference in Quebec, in 1992, Patrick Boylan was approached by UNESCO to examine the effectiveness of those instruments to protect heritage, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention. Patrick's study found that legally the 1954 Hague Convention was effective, but its implementation could and should be improved. Patrick highlighted that the new organisation, operating outside the intergovernmental system could help to improve the conventions, implementation, and heritage protection. ICOM, ICA, ICOMOS, and IFLA were the right non-governmental organisations to take up this challenge.

Following the April 1996 lunch at ICOM headquarters, in June of the same year, the CEOs of the founding four formally established Blue Shield. And today, we are here together after 25 years to celebrate Blue Shield's successful action.

ICOM's most valuable asset is our global membership. ICOM members are active in ICOM'S disaster risk management committee. ICOM relies on its members on the ground to provide

information, in extremely difficult and fast changing situations. For example, in Mali in 2012, ICOM experts in the country managed to inform ICOM and Blue Shield about heritage sites under threat. ICOM and Blue Shield made sure that these sites and museums could be included on a no strike list.

ICOM has developed tools that can be used by non-museum professionals to identify heritage at risk. ICOM's red list of cultural objects at risk, were designed in 2000 by ICOM experts to highlight the categories of objects that are subject to smuggling and sold on the legal market. For over 20 years, the red list has been assisting military, police, and customs officers in identifying threats and heritage protected by national and international law. ICOM created the red list to fight illicit traffic of cultural property in times of peace, as well as in times of conflict. The ICOM red list for Syria was, in fact, published to protect heritage at the outbreak of the Syrian civil war.

ICOM could not have done this work alone. Since our founding in 1946, we have learnt that the protection of heritage needs collaboration. Global challenges call for global cooperation. ICOM has been pleased to see the expansion and establishment of Blue Shield National Committees across the globe. In many cases, the volunteers who established the Blue Shield National Committees look to the experience of ICOM members in establishing their own ICOM National Committees. This is also a key reason why ICOM participates in the Blue Shield Accreditation Committee. Dialogue and exchange of knowledge and information is fundamental, and we will continue to support it.

ICOM is pleased to see the continual ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention, and of its first and second protocols. Over 130 countries have signed a convention, and more than half of these have also subscribed to the protocols. Together, with Blue Shield, ICOM will continue to push for the ratification of these important instruments by other countries.

I would like to stress the necessity of strengthening our cooperation for the implementation of the convention. The convention was conceived in the aftermath of the Second World War, when cultural heritage faces the convention of threats. The threats to heritage now are many fold, unconventional conflicts, such as civil wars or terrorism, that are outside the scope of the convention and are challenging our traditional ways of protecting heritage.

The world heritage is now faced, also, with an imminent threat of the climate crisis. It is imperative that we react before it is too late.

I would like to end on a positive note. Certainly, future threats are serious. But in the last 25 years, we have overcome some of the most unprecedented challenges facing heritage since World War Two. From this common experience, we can learn, and we prepare for what is still to come. The role of non-governmental actors and volunteers is crucial.

Blue Shield has received support across the world, and we could not have achieved the excellent results of the last 25 years without the determination and selfless dedication of our

members. I am confident that we will continue our joint action successfully, in the next 25 years and more.

Thanks for your attention.

Peter Stone: Alberto thank you very much indeed for that. It's always a pleasure to work closely with ICOM and with all of the founding four. And of course the founding four are a critical element, or have been a critical element, over the last 25 years and will 100% continue to be a critical element of Blue Shield's work over the next 25 years.

5 - Teresa Patrício, President of ICOMOS

Teresa Patrício: Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues. Representing one of the four founding organisations of the Blue Shield, I would like to particularly emphasise that an anniversary is always a great moment of joy to celebrate the long life of an association that works for the benefit of all. It shows its capacity to overcome the tests of time and its ability to last. Thank you very much to Emma Cunliffe from her clear presentation today and for remembering us, the real values of the Blue Shield.

25 years on, it shows that the founding four of the Blue Shield were not mistaken in their original intent. They correctly identified what was missing in our field. Faced with the conflicts of the 90s, the organisations responsible for the preservation of heritage in the world, were able to recognise that closer collaboration among them was crucial to overcome this crisis situation! A structure was needed to enable us to work together, to increase the capacity of the various organisations in their efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage, both tangible and intangible, during armed conflicts and natural or man-made disasters around the world. The Blue Shield was conceived as a catalyst, by which we hoped that the sum will be greater than the parts we were able all to contribute.

Now, 25 years have passed and since the Blue Shield was created, concepts and circumstances have changed. In today's world, the context we are operating in has evolved and there are many new aspects and perspectives that must be considered while protecting cultural heritage.

Allow me to present first ICOMOS and what ICOMOS sees as the global challenges. ICOMOS was founded in 1965, following a recommendation of UNESCO. As a non-governmental, non-profit international organisation (present in 131 countries, working with around 11,000 heritage experts), ICOMOS is dedicated to promoting the application of theories, methodologies, and scientific techniques to the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places. To do this, it has established technical bodies, 29 international scientific committees, comprising experts from all over the world, covering a wide range of specialisations.

Taking into account emerging issues and new threats in society, and the need to develop new ways to understand and respond to threats, ICOMOS constantly reflects on how these may impact its doctrinal input and best practices developed at the service of the conservation and protection of cultural heritage. We have set up a number of working groups on emerging themes such as indigenous heritage, sustainable development, climate change, and right based approaches.

For the past few years, ICOMOS has recognised the need to introduce guidance to deal with recovery, guidance to deal with mitigation and resilience, together with environmental issues and sustainable development. Cultural heritage, buildings and sites, tangible and intangible, are deteriorating faster than ever, all with a common trend - climate change - one of the most significant and fastest growing threats to people and their cultural heritage worldwide, with dramatic consequences (strong precipitation, floods, increasing storminess, hurricanes, fires, but also the certification, and this is only to name a few of them). The ICOMOS "Heritage on the Edge" project that we did with Google Arts and Culture and CYARK vividly demonstrates the real and devastating impacts of climate change on cultural heritage, and also the effect that is having on communities.

There is a tendency to prioritise and focus on extant built heritage and many of our responses are targeted on these places. However, climate change is equally impacting our landscapes and living heritage. We need to develop new ways to understand and respond to this threat. To address climate change in a meaningful way. We must start by comprehending the values, ascertaining why places and things are important for people and communities. When monuments are impacted, what happens to the community? Damaged monuments mean damaged livelihoods, memories, social cohesion, and knowledge. So we have to worry about the impact on structures, yes, but also about how impact on structures impact people. ICOMOS believes that culturally based strategies help heighten the ambition and capacity of communities to act.

The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on risk preparedness, created in fact to support ICOMOS contribution to the Blue Shield, is today dedicated to helping better maintain our cultural heritage, not only on a global basis, but more importantly in supporting the needs of local communities. Moreover, the work developed by our Right-Based Approaches Working Group is undoubtedly of great importance to foster an understanding of heritage in all its dimensions and how community values and rights of different communities can be preserved.

But the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on risk preparedness is also concerned with crisis monitoring and response for heritage. Over the past few months, we have been confronted with many disasters including the COVID 19 pandemic, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, and flooding, as well of course as conflict and political instability that are ravaging a number of regions on the globe. The ICOMOS crisis and conflict monitoring unit conducts contacts and surveys with our members, and proceeds with the monitoring and follow up of the various crisis situations worldwide. During recent months, we have monitored the situation in many regions of the world, such as Azerbaijan, Burma, Ethiopia, Haiti, Israel, the

Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) and occupied Palestinian territory. For this work, we are in contact with our National Committees, and with Blue Shield, and its founding organisation, as well as with UNESCO and ICCROM.

Since the turn of the millennium, in armed conflicts and political disturbances, cultural heritage has been increasingly targeted. It has been looted or deliberately destroyed in order to finance warfare, or to affect the identity and the confidence of the adversaries. ICOMOS and the founding four of Blue Shield, as representatives of the heritage community in the world, are very much concerned about this evolution. Recently, ICOM and ICOMOS remind all parties of armed conflicts of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. We called upon all parties to respect the international agreements that rule armed conflicts and to protect the world's cultural heritage, whatever it is, regardless of religious beliefs or political intentions. The scale of the crisis, and the sensitivity of certain situations, has shown us the need for mechanisms that allow faster assessments and potential responses. In particular, in cases of crisis where rapid emergency response is of vital importance.

These are, very briefly, the main global challenges of ICOMOS for today and tomorrow!

Having these broad approaches of heritage in mind, how does ICOMOS see the next 25 years of the Blue Shield? Our vision would be refocusing on the core reasons of its foundation. Working together! Built on the existing networks, both at the national and international level. Making use of the expertise of the founding organisations that cover heritage places (in urban and rural environment, cultural and natural, tangible and intangible), as well as museums (illicit trafficking), archives, libraries... whilst bringing in other actors to develop opportunities and improve response. Closer collaboration will be needed to overcome ongoing and future crises, due to armed conflict, and natural or man-made disasters around the world. In particular, in the coming months and years, it is urgent to recognise and mitigate climate risks and their impacts on heritage and communities. We are stronger when we do our advocacy work together.

As Alberto Garlandini just told us in his intervention before me, "global challenges call for global collaboration". Maintaining a wide approach of disaster and risk management (including preparedness mitigation, response and recovery activities), giving equal attention to both natural and man-made disasters, ensuring we work with local communities in support of their needs and guaranteeing the application and promotion of best practices. We must continue to build capacity and raise awareness among cultural heritage professionals and decision makers in our respective fields. We must ensure, also, our capacity to deliver impartial expert advice in the context of the 1954 Hague Convention and its protocols. Over 20 years after the adoption of the 1999 Second Protocol, promoting and monitoring its implementation remains our shared responsibility.

The big challenge of course remains funding our activities, when culture may not always be at the top of budgeting priorities. In this regard, ICOMOS thanks the founding organisations for the resources they dedicated over the years, in carrying forward this joint venture.

I'd like very much to thank Peter Stone for enabling the Blue Shield to have a permanent Secretariat in Newcastle during recent years.

I look forward to the presentations of Blue Shield members and partners, later today and tomorrow, as the expectations and needs of our networks are what should guide us in the coming years.

I thank you very much for your attention.

6 - Emilie Gagnet Leumas, Board Representative of ICA

Peter Stone: Last but not least, normally alphabetically ICA goes first, not quite sure how we got it this way round.

Emilie Leumas: Thank you very much, Peter. And thank you to those who spoke before me from IFLA, ICOM, and ICOMOS. I get to sort of, I guess, round us out and try not to repeat some of the same comments and the same importance that we all strive for as being part of Blue Shield.

On behalf of David Fricker, ICA's President, congratulations to Blue Shield on its 25th anniversary. And we emphasise the commitment of ICA to Blue Shield in its effort to recognise the importance of, and the need to protect, cultural property. David Fricker wrote "ICA values our role as one of the Blue Shield's founding four. We understand the profound disruption that can occur when individuals and communities are denied access to the cultural identity through acts of war, terrorism, political unrest and natural disasters. For ICA, we are particularly concerned with the protection and preservation of the archives that serve as memory and evidence of our past, to provide the principal means of transmitting authentic, evidence based knowledge from one generation to the next. On this occasion, on the 25th anniversary of Blue Shield, the ICA proudly reaffirms our shared commitment with our partners to ensure that all of humanity retains our sense of our identity and shared values, through the protection of cultural knowledge, for the benefit of future generations". And I had asked David to send me a few words on his behalf, since he would not be able to attend this meeting in person.

Before I begin, I would also like to recognise the contributions of George MacKenzie, and his work on representing ICA when Blue Shield was created. It has been a real pleasure to know him and to hear his thoughts on how Blue Shield came about, and how the founding four were there at the very beginning.

My name is Dr. Emilie Gagnet Leumas, and I am the representative to the International Council on Archives on the Executive Board of Blue Shield. The International Council on Archives was established under the auspices of UNESCO, on the 9th of June 1948. Its mission is to promote the preservation and use of archives around the world. In pursuing this mission, ICA works for

the protection and enhancement of the memory of the world, and to improve communication, while respecting cultural diversity. Archives are an incredible resource. They are the documentary byproduct of human activity, and as such, are an irreplaceable witness to past events, underpinning democracy, the identity of individuals, communities, and human rights. But they are also fragile and vulnerable, as many of us have seen as we've gone out and done work in the field.

ICA strives to protect and ensure access to archives through advocacy, setting standards, professional development, and enabling dialogue between archivist policy makers, creators, and users of archives. ICA promotes the central role of record keeping and archives, in protecting the rights of individuals in states, and in supporting democracy and good governance, through working for the effective management of archives. From the moment of their creation, and the permanent preservation of archives, as the documented memory of nations and societies, and the widest possible public access to that memory. It strives to build a better understanding across societies through international cooperation, while respecting linguistic and cultural diversity. And again, as I said, in going out in the field with the destruction that we've seen. People need their identity, and the only way to get to that is through those documents and through that documentary heritage. Identity is critical. We've seen this in the tsunamis, we've seen this during the hurricanes, especially in the Caribbean, and in the United States. People can't get to their identity. Bare minimum, bare bones pieces of paper to show who they are, whether they live in an electronic format, they don't have internet, they can't get to that during these times. And while they're in an evacuation state, they need those documents, it's critical for them to have that.

ICA advocates for the importance of archives and records management to policymakers, while providing opportunities for professional contact. Information exchanges, research and education, and while taking a leadership role in developing best practices and standards, which support records and archives professionals throughout the world. It is a central source of information on archives and the archival profession for society. For more than 60 years, ICA has united archival institutions and practitioners across the globe, to advocate for good archival management, and the physical protection of recorded heritage to produce reputable standards and best practices.

As a member of the founding four, of the International Committee of the Blue Shield, ICA works closely with its sister organisations to protect cultural heritage during military conflicts and natural and manmade disasters. With approximately 2000 members in 199 countries and territories, the council's ethos is to harness the cultural diversity of its membership to deliver effective solutions and a flexible, imaginative profession.

ICA governance is in the hands of two main bodies, the General Assembly, which is the highest decision making body in the ICA and decides on long term strategic directions, as well as the management of the organisation. In between the General Assembly's, responsibility for ICA performance lies within the executive board which implements the General Assembly's decisions and, if necessary, proposes adjustments to the strategic directions.

Within ICA, and in particular its professional program, there are expert groups, professional sections, and regional branches. Of, perhaps, particular interest to the endeavours of Blue Shield, is the ICA expert group on emergency management and disaster preparedness, which was established in 2014. And I have had the honour of sharing this group since its inception. And it is part of that work that brings me to Blue Shield.

The main goals of the expert group are to coordinate initiatives and exchange good practices in the field of emergency management and disaster preparedness. And we do this through training, which includes helping with mitigation, planning, response, and recovery. We also facilitate professional mobilisation and archival solidarity, when disaster strikes. We're in the process of developing an online training course. and in the past several years, we have developed a manual for emergency management and disaster preparedness, which has a workbook section. This is currently slated for publication in 2022. The draft we have used since 2018 in all of our training.

We do our work through facilitating training and workshops, researching, and making available existing resources in different languages, assisting in the compilation of disaster plans and case studies for future dissemination, and advocating for the protection of cultural heritage patrimony. As part of its work in the past seven years, this expert group has conducted and participated in training, seminars, and workshops throughout the global archival community.

I'd like to highlight just a few of the things in the contributions that we've made. We've helped in the Caribbean area to establish the Caribbean heritage emergency network, which coordinates and collaborates with the different island nations, so that they have a network. This has been really critical, especially lately with not only the hurricanes, the mudslides, the volcano that erupted. And this network has really been critical in that area. I've also, even during covid, been able to travel to Senegal, to work with UNESCO in the field of doing some training. And that, even with its challenges, has been extremely rewarding.

We've also worked collaboratively with other NGOs, including our sister organisations represented here at Blue Shield. And we've done this in the field to establish those emergency networks, especially the one that I just mentioned in the Caribbean. We've also worked in Australia, in the Pacific Island area, in particular through our work with PARBICA, one of our branches.

In 2018, after the devastating hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, fires, and floods that wreaked havoc on many archives and cultural heritage institutions, ICA established an international disaster fund for archives to aid in the stabilisation and recovery needs of archival institutions affected by catastrophic events. The fund provides assistance in three main areas. First, the fund provides small grant monies to any repository that holds archival records on special collections. These monies may be used for the direct recovery of damaged or at risk materials, and to defray the cost for volunteers or other labourers who assist with the recovery.

Second, the fund provides advice and assistance via consultation with experts to archival repositories, seeking information about response and recovery, such as setting up triage areas,

drawing white materials, conservation and preservation of damage material. And as I mentioned before with the volcano that erupted in the Caribbean. It was through WhatsApp that we were providing information, ICOM and ICOMOS both as well as ICA and IFLA. We were all using our WhatsApp and our collaborative efforts to provide information to those island nations on how to respond after the eruption of the volcano. Especially the neighbouring islands that were receiving the fallout from the ash.

Third, the fund provides monies to support the deployment, when the disaster region is deemed safe to enter, of a group or team of archival experts to provide hands-on guidance in response and recovery. And again, we've done this in more recent times in the Caribbean area as well as in the Pacific Islands.

The expert group in emergency management and disaster preparedness, is just one example of ICA's engagement in the field of protecting documentary heritage. There are many other examples surrounding climate change, which has come to the forefront and which demands our recognition and our work immediately, in order to continue to mitigate the fallout from climate change. We've worked with archival repositories and environments to make sure that those environments are stable in light of the different types of changes that are going on. And we also have examples that surround our human rights and the work in human rights, that documentary heritage also was important in that field. So we've worked with these expert groups, professional sections, and regional branches to bring about this work to that forefront.

In closing, I want to reiterate a few things that some of the other sister organisations have brought up and I think it's very important. I've written down the quote "global challenges demand global responses and collaboration".

So in closing, let me reiterate the commitment of the International Council on Archives to the preservation and use of archives around the world. It is through this commitment, and the collaborative network of organisations such as Blue Shield, that protection and preservation of cultural heritage will remain at the forefront of this shared mission.

Thank you Peter, and others.

7 - Session 1 & 2 Q & A

Peter Stone: Professor Giuseppe Maino of Bologna University, who is hoping in the process to build an Italian national committee of the Blue Shield says thank you very much for the opportunity to attend this very interesting conference, and I bring you the greetings and compliments of the Italian Society for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the SIPBC, whose president Ulandi cannot participate today due to previous commitments. Thanks again and good luck for the next 25 years.

So that's one, and from ICOM UAE. It's great to be with you as the director of ICOM UAE, and before that as a dedicated human to human cultural heritage, I hope and deeply wish the Blue Shield doesn't exist. However, I'm grateful that it does exist. I think I understand that. I would love if we don't exist anymore, and more. There are many of our colleagues in Libya, Yemen and more. They do not know that the Blue Shield exists and they don't know what to do to communicate with you. I did my best to send them the contact information. However, I believe we need to open more channels of communication. That I completely agree with, and is a critical element, and that's fair.

There are a number of people just saying thank you to everybody. Lynn Edwards, Axel. And we have a note here from Kidong Bae, the vice president of Blue Shield from South Korea. I'm just going to read Kidong's remarks.

It is a historical moment for Blue Shield International. Current chairs of the founding four are making speeches for the value of BSI for its role in protecting heritage. At the turn of a quarter of a century of history, I wish very much that the founding four supports the Blue Shield international activities, and its interdependency in its immediate decisions of its own direction for improving its practice and efficient working with strong partners, sorry, with strong partnerships with the founding four. At this moment, it would be right, the right time, the founding four to contemplate how this organisation can survive in the future for better protection, in case of emergency, of heritage and human rights. It would be very kind mission, the founding four can cope with this. Please think about how we can make this organisation at the front for better protection of heritage, in case of emergencies.

And we have here in fact, a comment from Abdullah, but only add thanks to the speakers and great presentations Many thanks to all from Yemen. So, there is a connection there.

So, firstly, would any of those who have spoken so far like to make any further statement or make any points in relation to what any of the others have said, and while Gerald has had to leave us or had to do a recording, we've got Claire McGuire, who is the IFLA representative on the Blue Shield board, joining us to contribute from an IFLA point of view.

So, over to any of those of you who have spoken if you would like to say anything more just raise your hand, I can see you all on my screen. And if not, and you're all keeping your hands down firmly, then I'm just going to make a couple of comments from a few notes that I scribbled as you were all speaking, and I think I'm not actually going to attribute them to anybody because many of you said the same things but in slightly different ways, so I'm just going to go from there and I hope to generate some discussion. And I hope, well I know, that many of these points are going to come up later in the day, not least when I finish the afternoon off later on.

The first critical thing is we must continue to work together. What I will term later on as partnerships, it is absolutely crucial the Blue Shield doesn't exist without the founding four. That's critical, but we now have many other partners who are increasingly important to our network, and we must keep those going.

There are a couple of instances where people mentioned the very proactive work that your organisations do, in terms of supporting the Blue Shield, not least just as one example, ICOM's chairing in the work on the Accreditation Committee for the Blue Shield so that's been really helpful and very good.

Yes. Emily wrote it down, I wrote it down: global challenges, global responses and collaboration. We couldn't say it better. One of you also mentioned funding being the biggest challenge and yes while we have managed to help fund a secretariat, albeit, very small one and a half people through my UNESCO chair in cultural property, protection and peace at Newcastle University. That is not funding that will go on long term into the future. At the moment, that funding finishes on the 31st of December 2023, and I had the first meeting with the University last week about whether they will want to apply for a further four year phase of the chair, from 2024 to the end of 2027. And it was a positive meeting but we won't know, probably for another 12 months or so, depending on a whole range of factors. So yes funding is crucial.

The University at Newcastle and I think we should all applaud them, have taken on itself through me to fund or make the funding available to allow Emma, and Michael who you'll meet in a few minutes to do the work that they do, and to build Blue Shield, as I've said before, just, I was going to say silly things, but absolutely fundamental things like organising this conference would not have happened without Emma and without that funding, so Newcastle University is in a fairly bizarre situation of being one university in the world, but actually funding an international organisation through its endowment funding, and that's been remarkable as a contribution to the Blue Shield, so that's critical.

The other thing that a number of you mentioned either directly or indirectly was essentially, and this is again something that I'm going to be talking about while I speak later, but an expansion of the role of Blue Shield away from just the '54 convention. Back in '96, it wasn't entirely there just as the '54 convention, but that had been the driver. Very soon, as we saw from some of Emma's contributions, there were members of those, those four who signed, were talking about protecting natural heritage, intangible heritage and such, but that's something that has built and grown I think over the 25 years.

Yes, we're sort of rooted in trying to mitigate the impact of armed conflict, but we also see the importance of responding to natural and human-made disaster, and to deal, not only with culture, and cultural heritage but natural heritage as well, as many parts of the world don't recognize the distinction between those two and between tangible and intangible. Again, I'll be making a point that the tangible is indivisibly intertwined with the intangible, because intangible heritage is incorporated in us, in human beings, and if we don't protect the human beings, there is little point in protecting their tangible heritage. So those are just some of the points that I picked out of your fascinating and very timely contributions. So, thank you very much for that.

There is time, if anybody wants to say anything more, there is time for anybody listening, and I'm going to pause for a moment. If anybody wants to take the floor, otherwise, we can go a few minutes early to our break. Alberto?

Alberto Garlandini: I don't want to postpone the break, sorry, but I was just, I just want to highlight something that was said to we all, and I want to highlight the devastating effects of the climate crisis on our natural and cultural heritage at the global level, really, I really think that this is a major, it's an imperative of our times, and we have to, in each organisation, each member, each museum, each library, Blue Shield of course, has to focus on this challenge because I really want to just underline that the dramatic biodiversity loss, and the climate crisis show how tight the relationship are between men, biosphere and geosphere, and we have to take into account, and we'll talk about that, that indigenous communities are at the forefront of this climate crisis.

Also, not only their livelihoods are under threat, but also their cultural natural heritage cannot survive, and even native languages are disappearing and in constant decline, because of the climate crisis, not only because of the climate crisis, but certainly the climate crisis is impacting, so much larger and larger parts of the world.

So I just want to, just to highlight that in 2019, at the ICOM General Assembly in Kyoto, there was a resolution on sustainability and implementation of Agenda 2030. Really, the 2030 Agenda has become the fundamental reference for ICOM's work, and in the next decade and beyond. I really think that this is something that unifies all of us. And, again, needs for more, more effective cooperation.

Peter Stone: I thank you Alberto for drawing that back to our attention as a critical element, I cannot but agree with you. My four adult children question my commitment to cultural property protection when they say that what I should be putting all my time and effort into is climate change and trying to stop climate change.

And this morning I was reading an article, if you'll allow me just very briefly, which was just questioning the whole economic basis of the stranglehold that we have at the moment of how we deal with some of the issues around climate change, and that is around the way that we, that all the world's economies and all of the world's international financial institutions, essentially work on GDP, gross domestic product. And until, so the argument runs, we work on something different, in other words GEP, gross environmental product, we will not be able to address the climate change issue. That's just a fascinating way of beginning to think about that as, as a, as a prompt, we really do need to address what we're talking about, in terms of climate change, in a way that is so fundamentally different to what is the norm today.

Claire you have your hand up, and I will just check if there are any other questions in the chat, but Claire please.

Claire McGuire: I would just briefly, wholeheartedly, second that, and point out that you know when we look at threats to cultural property we're looking at multiple threats, so addressing climate change is also addressing all of the other hazards that come along with disaster associated with climate change, be that trafficking, be that human cost of conflict and so on, so it's really not a separate issue. And I think, in addition to addressing this, all of our organisations, and in fact, practitioners across the cultural heritage fields, are looking and

exploring and raising awareness of the role of cultural heritage as climate action technology and the lessons that all of our institutions and our profession can offer, and the solutions we can all offer to threats associated with climate change.

So I just wanted to take the opportunity to second that and say that the work that we're doing here and ensuring that our material, our cultural property exists into the future, is also contributing to the search for solutions. So we're very, very eager from IFLA's point of view to continue our involvement in this work and thank you, I'm glad we could raise this very important issue here as well.

Peter Stone: Claire, thank you. The two comments in the chat so, JL I'm sorry, I'm not sure who JL is, but JL says much of disaster management is about prevention, absolutely right, we have to do that and I will pick that up as I speak later on, how is this being done by Blue Shield in terms of climate change? And the simple answer to that, JL, is not well enough, and the reason behind that is that we don't have the capacity to do much more in what we're trying to do. But we are aware of that shortfall, and we are going to try and do something about it. I'll come to Teresa in a moment but then I just want to, JL has just responded to me saying we're doing so much already with a smile. Yes we are, but we're not doing enough JL so there.

Lisa Mole says, I would say it's not either or when it comes to climate change, we know climate change and conflict are likely to be intertwined. In fact they are already intertwined and tied to resource scarcity. So we've, we've got that. Okay. Now, I'm very happy we are eating in a little bit for our very long break, so I'm going to carry on with doing that. We've got Teresa, and Emma both would like to speak briefly, and so Teresa first and then Emma.

Teresa Patricio: Can everyone hear me?

Peter Stone: No, I can't hear you.

Teresa Patricio: Yeah, it's trying to answer the question of JL, what to do about climate change, I wanted to return back to our main phrase of this morning; the global challenge calls for a global collaboration. Climate change is a global project. And for this we really need to work all together with the same, the same goal. And of course, well, I come as we are starting already working very much with climate change, we have a specific working group that is working for how to mitigate and how to improve the resilience of our heritage and of our communities for climate change so there once more, I think the funding four have a role to play with Blue Shield for this climate change, risks and challenging. Okay, thank you very much.

Peter Stone: Teresa, thank you. Emma?

Emma Cunliffe: I'd also just like to add that whilst we are not, like myself, Michael and Peter, doing so much in the British and international level, obviously the founding four are, and many of our national communities around the world are very heavily engaged with this work and they have members from ICOM, ICOMOS, IFLA as well. And I think Claire might be mentioning a little bit about that in her presentation after the break, but also you can see more about that in

the reports of the National Committee through our website, and in their presentations and the news stories about their work so a lot of the climate change venture work is really happening at the national level.

Peter Stone: Thank you Emma, yes that's a very good point.

8 - Session 3: Claire McGuire

Peter Stone: I'm going to hand over to Claire McGuire, who is the IFLA representative on the Blue Shield board, and ask Claire to do the impossible, which is a resume of a vast amount of documentation - thank you very much indeed - sent in by the National Committees as part of their planning and reporting process, which I'll come to in my presentation later on. So Claire, over to you.

Claire McGuire: Thank you Peter. Hi everybody, again, as Peter said, my name is Claire McGuire. I'm a policy and research officer at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). And as you have heard from our Secretary General Gerald Leitner, during the previous session, we are one of the four founding organisations with Blue Shield. Just to echo Mr Leitner's remarks, we highly value that spirit of collaboration that's at the heart of Blue Shield. It was there 25 years ago at the founding and it continues to be central to the work of Blue Shield today. And of course one critical aspect of this collaboration is the dedication and contribution of the National Committees of the Blue Shield. And these National Committees help enable collaboration across memory institutions, monuments, and sites in a national context, as well as information sharing between national stakeholders and the international community. This serves to strengthen our collective capacity to safeguard the cultural property of all people. So I'm happy to address you today to offer a brief look into the work of Blue Shield National Committees.

With respect to the cultural property protection in armed conflict and natural and human costs disaster, National Committees of the Blue Shield work in these areas. Every year, the National Committees are asked to report to the Blue Shield international board on their activity in these areas as well as challenges that they faced over the year. I assist IFLA in our work with Blue Shield and earlier this year I had the privilege of helping the board review the National Committee annual reports for the year 2020.

As Emma has already said, we're celebrating 25 years of Blue Shield so I know that the work of the Committees and 2020 is, of course, only a recent moment in a long history. I feel it's important to note as well, that no attempt was made to compare Committees or Committee activities to one another. This was to highlight the work that all the Committees are doing in their areas and in their countries.

I would like to point out right now for time sake, I'm only sharing some activities to give you an idea of the types of activities Committees are doing. This is by no means not everything from the reports, You can find more information elaborated on these reports, as well as activities that

the Committees have taken after 2020, so over the course of this year, and on Blue Shield's website. I will close with some links for you.

So without further ado, we've received reports from Committees located in Oceania, Europe, South America, Asia, North America, and Africa. And at the time some National Committees were still in the process of accreditation, so we will receive even more reports for the year 2021 in the coming year.

So as I'm sure you are well aware, the number one challenge faced by every committee in 2020 was the uncertainty of people and the tragedy that came with the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic. And I just note one example here of how Committees adjusted their work to adjust the pandemic. So this example is from the Australian National Committee. It provides guidance for closing collections of movable cultural heritage in collective organisations.

So with that context, I've grouped the activities of National Committees into similar categories, along the lines of the six areas of action that I highlighted earlier. The majority of activities concerned the building and strengthening of connections, nationally, regionally, and internationally. This includes, among other examples: Curaçao's initiative to establish a regional emergency group, the Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network (CHEN), Georgia and Poland's collaboration with their National Committees of the Red Cross, Senegal's negotiations with the ministries of Culture and Tourism for the development of a Senegalese cultural passport, the Greek Committees long term collaboration with the NGO heritage of museums and participation in the Mediterranean online forum "Circle the Med", Norway's connect contact with The Forum for Risk Preparedness (FORK), and The Netherlands cooperation with a Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL). These examples I'm giving, show the breadth of topics within cultural heritage, on which we showed National Committees are seeking to build partnerships.

Many committees worked to increase collaboration with their national armed forces on the presence of considerations for cultural property protection. Some examples include: Ireland's three day course on cultural property protection for peacekeeping deployment, Poland's co-organisation and development of workshops and trainings with their Ministry of National Defence, the USA's leading Professional Development Series sessions offered for various military units and with NATO, the Netherland's contact with the Ministry of Defence, Denmark's relationship building with the Danish Military Academy, Austria's initiation of preparations for the creation of a competent centre for the protection of cultural property at the Austrian Military Academy and the signing of an MMU for cooperation and training between the Association of Austrian peacekeepers and the Austrian National Committee, and the UK is linked to the British Army cultural property protection unit. In the area of cooperation with law enforcement, the UK committee has collaborated on investigations related to trafficking and theft. Similarly, Norway participated in a working group on the prevention of cultural crime, with a Norwegian Ministry of Culture.

Much activity is also related to education, training, and capacity building. Many Committees carried out work related to raising public awareness, taking advantage of social media to reach new audiences virtually, such as Germany's trafficking culture campaign. South Korea produced and disseminated a booklet to raise awareness and build potential partnerships, and helped the boards work on accreditation of training programs. Peru also raised public awareness through efforts to identify monuments with the Blue Shield emblem, as part of a public activity with the municipality of Arequipa, and carried out activities with volunteers and with school children. Awareness raising activity also included Committee members' presence at various conferences and other events, giving addresses, keynotes, and lectures. Some examples included: Czech Republic's series of lectures on cyber security, France's symposium "Bouncing back after the tragedy: heritages and resilience", North Macedonia's forum on packaging and transport of cultural goods, and The Netherland's panel discussions on collection security and water damage to paper collections.

In Georgia within the ALIPH funded project and with the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Gori, the Committee produced training for museum professionals on preventative conservation and handling of materials. Many committees engaged with students and universities in this work and other projects. Just one example, Senegal participated in the training of students on the heritage profession and on various UNESCO conventions. National Committees were also involved in producing publications. We saw publications from North Macedonia, for example, tools were also published, including Francis health batch safety and security and containment situations and Czech Republic's revised edition of the manual and preventative measures and rescue work in emergency, and afterwards for library collections and support activities. Many committees also worked on translations of existing documents.

Many training and awareness raising activities concerned risk preparedness and risk reduction. Australia shared resources on information on natural disasters to member associations and the general public. One major activity of Blue Shield France is an initiative to improve fire safety in response to the Notre Dame fire. This included a study on the fire risk in heritage buildings. France was also involved in similar preparedness work concerning flooding, through the heritage and flooding mission. This work kind of aligns with the discussion we were just having around working at risk preparedness in areas that could very well be related to climate change related hazards. So additional training in this area was carried out by Germany's participation in a workshop with the German Archaeological Institute on first aid mechanisms, for the support of cultural heritage during and after disaster, and in Curaçao, presentations on disaster emergency response and regional Caribbean heritage networks.

In addition to capacity building, Committees also worked in national and regional networks to assist in post disaster recovery. Blue Shield Iceland worked in collaboration with government departments on the cover of a national technical museum, following a mudslide. In terms of information gathering, Blue Shield Australia conducted a survey to quantify the impact of the bushfires and extreme weather events, that if you remember were experienced across Australia in the end of 2019 into 2020. This gave insight into the impact of these events on cultural heritage institutions. The USA engaged in monitoring and analysis of conflict-inflicted regions.

Britain further engaged in ongoing collaboration with heritage professionals in Syria and Afghanistan, including a partnership with the Prince Claus fund. The United States members also contributed to recovery following the Our Lady church fire at Sans Souci, Haiti, with Quisqueya University. That was also with support of the Prince Claus fund. Members engaged with the US cultural heritage Coordination Committee to provide emergency assessments following disasters in Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.

During the period of civil unrest experienced in Peru, in 2020, National Committees have worked with various groups of civil volunteers for the protection of sculptures, public ornaments, and cultural heritage present in affected cities. Others worked to build capacity in this area, for instance Ireland was invited to draft guidelines for first responders to emergency situations, which include cultural property or a heritage site. South Korea has carried out work to survey and list cultural heritage that needs priority protection in emergencies.

All National Committees stated their work or their ambitions to build on their work in an advisory capacity on the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two protocols, as well as other relevant conventions. This was the highest priority for the UK Blue Shield Committee in 2020. They participated in various working groups to encourage and support better UK implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention. They also responded to several calls for evidence and various UK Government consultations on relevant topics.

Australia also engaged in this way, providing a submission to the 2020 Royal Commission, international natural disaster arrangements, and the parliamentary inquiry into the destruction of caves at the Juukan Gorge, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The US Committee led a coalition of heritage associations and organisations, in support of the US process for conducting an international loan of cultural objects. Members also gave presentations to allied professional associations, on topics in law and policy of cultural heritage preservation. Poland took steps to encourage the government to adopt the council of Europe Nicosia Convention, and the UNIDROIT Convention on stolen or legally exported cultural objects. Finally, Georgia held an interagency roundtable meeting in conjunction with the project planning and the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Corey, which included a discussion on developing detailed policies and guidelines for emergency services on dealing with cultural property during disasters.

Again, this is just a selection to show the span of types of work that the Committees have done and it is by no means everything that was included in these reports, as Peter alluded to. And by sharing the summary with you I wanted to highlight all the different types of work of the Committees and crucially, of the volunteers that are active in these Committees. Over the course of 2021, each of these Committees mentioned here, as well as the others that have not yet been mentioned, they continue to strengthen national capacity to protect cultural property. For example, the board received multiple reports over the course of this year on Committees engaging in disaster recovery, following storms or flooding that was experienced throughout 2021, just as an example.

So as I said, I will close by pointing you to where you can hear more from the National Committees themselves. Here, on the screen you can find the links to the National Committee news section, and a link to where you can find full 2020 reports. And you can also access the presentations of the National Committees introducing themselves to you and to their work here at this link. I think Emma had also shared that in her opening presentation.

So with that, I thank you very much for your attention and I wish all the best for you for the remainder of this conference.

Peter Stone: Claire thank you very much indeed for that impossible task done very well.

9 - Session 3: Patty Gerstenblith

Peter Stone: We move on to the Blue Shield Working Group on the trafficking of cultural property and its chair, Patty Gerstenblith. Patty, over to you.

Patty Gerstenblith: Thank you Peter. I want to begin, actually, with a different hat on, which is representing the US Committee of the Blue Shield of which I am the board chair. I want to bring congratulations and best wishes to Blue Shield International for its 25 years of work, and for its future options, as we all work together to improve cultural heritage protection. I also particularly want to thank, not only Peter but particularly Emma, for all of her really hard work over both the last couple of days, and of course even before that, there have been many moving parts. I've been able to see several of them, maybe not all of them, and I appreciate just how much effort and dedication she's put into this work.

So I am speaking to you, more technically, on behalf of, what I think is the newest element of Blue Shield International, which is the working group on illegal trafficking and cultural objects. We have changed our name a few times in the last couple of days but I think this is the one that we will be sticking with.

In 2017, 2018, and 2019, under the direction of Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly, from whom you will be hearing on a different topic following me. She is the head of a Lebanese non-governmental organisation, BILADI. Joanne, and with the assistance of Neil Brodie, began a three year training program. This training program was aimed at training, particularly Lebanese, Syrian, and later also with the addition of Iraqi, law enforcement attorneys, archaeologists, and the interception and restitution of cultural objects that have been illegally trafficked, whether looted or stolen from those countries.

One of the things that's unique about the program, was the emphasis on disrupting the market in the market countries, and how the countries of origin, the countries from whom cultural property had been stolen or looted, would be able to work with the market countries. As I said, not only to return objects, but more importantly, to try to disrupt the market so that the incentive to boot the economic incentive to loot and steal will thereby be reduced.

The training was for three years, as I mentioned. In the first year it was just Lebanese and Syrians and then Iraqis joined in years two and three. Not only were new trainees brought in, but also a program developed in years two and three of training of trainers as well, so that they would be able to go back to their countries and help to train additional individuals. You can see here the breakdown by various professions, lawyers, archaeologists, in particular, who were involved in the training. The total number of people trained over the three years was 90 individuals, and you can see more women than men.

The program was under the leadership first of Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly, as I mentioned, with the great co assistance of Dr. Neil Brodie of the Amina project at Oxford University.

Several of the trainers came from market countries, the US, Switzerland, and the UK, as well as representatives from inside Lebanon. Several international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, were involved as well, including Interpol, the art loss register, experts from Egypt, Syria, ICOM in Lebanon and Lebanese security forces. There were other individuals representing different organisations as well.

Throughout, we have the support of Blue Shield International, and particularly in the last year when we did a roundtable discussion at the Lebanese national library, Karl von Hapsburg, who at the time was the President of Blue Shield International participated. And so from the beginning, I think we felt a connection with Blue Shield, one which then led us at the conclusion of the training to begin to work more closely with Blue Shield. But little did we realise, at the time of the first training in 2017, how soon our experience and network would become relevant to the recovery of antiquities looted and stolen during armed conflict.

Few months before the spring 2017 training, it was discovered that a bulls head, which had been excavated at the site of Tell Eshmoun in southern Lebanon in the 1960s, but then stolen from storage during the Lebanese Civil War. We discovered that the bull's head was on loan from the New York collector, Michael Steinhardt, to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. One of the Metropolitan curators recognized the bull's head and contacted Lebanese authorities about the possibility of returning the sculpture. Following initial litigation, and with assistance given to the Lebanese government through contacts and the network developed during the extra training program, Lebanon was able to present a compelling case for restitution of the bulls head. With assistance from the assistant district attorney in New York, Matthew Bogdanos, not only was the bull head recovered, but this led to the recovery of four additional sculptures of five in total and you can see them here in the Lebanese National Museum after they return. So not only were these sculptures returned as a result of the training program, but little did we realise at the time that this was the beginning of the story, and not the end.

After the last ESTERDAD training in 2019, four of us, Joanne, Neil, myself, and Fionnuala Rogers, UK art law attorney and now president of UK Blue Shield, proposed to Blue Shield International that the ESTERDAD network be expanded and made permanent as part of Blue Shield International, as a Working Group on illegal trafficking of cultural objects. The Working Group had provisional approval from the Blue Shield board for two years, and in the summer of

2021 it was placed on a more permanent basis. The purposes of the Working Group are: to maintain a network of experts on the international market (and on international and national laws), provide information to Blue Shield International (especially for the website) on efforts to inhibit international trafficking of cultural objects, to respond to requests for information, to comment on proposed government actions, and provide expert advice, and act as a liaison between countries from whom cultural objects are stolen and the market countries where these objects so often appear.

Members of the Working Group are available to consult with individuals and government representatives, from countries that have suffered from theft and looting and appropriation of cultural property, assist them in their efforts to trace and recover stolen and looted cultural objects. The primary goal of the Working Group is thus to assist efforts to understand and recover, when appropriate and feasible, illegally trafficked cultural objects.

Members of the Working Group have undertaken numerous activities over the past two years. Two examples of which I will return to in a few moments. But to summarise these activities, we have provided advice and expert analysis to law enforcement agencies in the US and UK, assistance to foreign embassies located in the US and the UK, including the Embassy of Iraq, published articles, and spoken at conferences in the efforts to increase public understanding of the detriments caused by looting and theft. And similarly, assisted journalists in understanding these issues. Several of us participated in webinars concerning the situation in Nagorno Karabakh and prepared a document on best practices for how to deal with cultural objects that might be removed during armed conflict. In the UK, emphasis was placed on the impact of Brexit on trafficking issues. Joanne Farchakh assisted Lebanon's department of antiquities in uploading the art loss to the art loss register documentation of stolen artefacts.

In the future, we would like to expand these efforts and provide educational materials to Blue Shield International's website and establish a consultancy that will continue to offer assistance to countries from which cultural objects have been illegally taken.

As you have likely noticed there is a heavy US and UK presence in these activities. These countries are where the largest market is located. And our goal is to disrupt the market, primarily at the destination end, and thereby reduce the incentive to traffick illegally in cultural objects, while achieving restitution.

Unfortunately, much of our work with law enforcement has had to remain confidential, for obvious reasons. However, by coincidence, recently, two investigations or two episodes have become public and I can therefore speak about them. The first of these was the restitution, during the past summer, to Iraq of 17,000 looted artefacts, most of which were looted either during the 1990s, as a result of the first Gulf War, or following 2003, the second Gulf War. Expert advice was provided to the Iraqi embassy in the United States, which assisted in these restitutions. And following the restitution of those objects, the Gilgamesh "Dream Tablet" was also returned to Iraq, and just this past September as well.

But also more recently, in fact just last week, by coincidence, a large-scale investigation of Michael Steinhardt was concluded, and therefore I can speak about this publicly. Steinhardt has a very large collection of antiquities in New York. And as I said, the bulls head investigation was just the tip of the iceberg because it enabled the New York assistant district attorney, again Matthew Bogdanos, to investigate the collection on a much larger scale.

The network, or the Working Group, provided expert analysis of the ownership laws of the various countries from which these artefacts have been taken. Additional advice was provided on trafficking networks themselves. This led to the restitution, or the upcoming soon restitution, of 180 trafficked objects with a reported market value of \$70 million. Of these, several of the objects were things that, as with the bulls head, had been taken during armed conflict. And this ties our work more closely to the work of Blue Shield International. Two of those objects were from the Steinhardt collection, the bulls' head that I mentioned before, and a statue which is called the Calf Bearer. Other objects in the Steinhardt collection are probably linked with looting that occurred during the 2003 Gulf War, including a statuette taken from Syria.

But the last object I want to mention, this gold bowl, interestingly was purchased by Michael Steinhardt in 2020. So, even while he and his collection were being investigated by New York law enforcement, he nonetheless purchased at that time a gold bowl, most likely originating from the site of Nimrod in Iraq, first known on the market in 2019.

We anticipate that more of our work will become public over time, but I think the two examples of the Iraqi restitution, and the restitutions from the Steinhardt collection, demonstrate the close connection between looting, armed conflict, and potentially also natural disaster. We hope that more of our work will become public and any ongoing, current investigations will be things we can talk about. But of course by then we will be engaged in new consultations, new advising, a new investigation, which will likewise remain confidential.

I urge you to follow our activities on the Blue Shield International website, and also to contact us at the email address @blueshield.illegaltrafficking@theblueshield.org with questions and with concerns, and particularly if you have information about trafficking and trafficking networks that we should follow up.

And with that, I will thank you for your attention.

Peter Stone: Patty, thank you very much indeed and also for the story which leads directly into Joanne, as the instigator of much of that history.

10 - Session 3: Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly

Peter Stone: Over to you Joanne, thank you.

Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly: Thank you Peter. Thank you Emma for your help, and I would like to say that yes thanks Patty a lot for your presentation and for mentioning BILADI, and the work we've done together.

Unfortunately, Lebanon is very present on the international scene for emergency response, because Lebanon has been in such a long stretch of war and emergencies that is putting it there. But we're trying to respond to that emergency in the best way possible. Unfortunately for us, last year we had the Beirut blast that took place on August the 4th, and I will be sharing with you a 10 second video for those of you who did not, or who are not familiar with the blast, just for you to have an idea of how big the disaster was.

Thank you. That blast took place on August 4th at six or seven in the evening, and it devastated the city within one minute. Next please, within one minute half of the city was destroyed. It took place on the harbour, where there was a shipment of chemical weapons, chemical warfare that were there, that destroyed the historical part of the city and left it partially or let's say more than 75% of the historical city was destroyed. Next please.

The second day, on that evening, on the evening of the fourth, I receive a phone call from friends from Blue Shield and especially from Peter, on the evening of the 4th, asking if we're all okay. On the fifth in the morning, at 6:30 in the morning, I was already in Beirut, and I was looking at the devastated scenery, and just keep on going please and I will try to follow.

And we could see, from that day onwards, the massive, very massive scale of destruction that the city has endured. I'd like to repeat that Beirut did witness a huge amount of destruction previously, but that was due to 30 years of civil war, but the blast did is that in one minute, it brought back the level of destruction of 30 years of civil war.

On the fifth of August, please, we decided to act upon what was taking place. So I had a phone call with Peter, I had a phone call with the president at the time, Karl von Habsburg, and we decided to take an action on, on that day we sent an email to CER Prince Claus asking, requesting funds for cultural heritage, and they sign it, responded to us the same day saying, we will be helping you, we just need time.

So we decided to move on and start doing what everybody was doing in Beirut at that time and that is cleaning the debris of the institutions. Of course the first days we were wondering, on the same day wondering how to start and then we decided together with Blue Shield Lebanon, and with the volunteers that we will work where we know best, and where we know the people, which are the museums and the libraries and institutions.

So we had a group of volunteers, and we started picking up the broken glass around all the institutions and helping them in cleaning the debris, in order just to be able to walk in these facilities.

During that time, at the same time, we started the discussion with other colleagues from Prince from Prince Claus but also from Blue Shield, and I will be mentioning here Corey Wagner from the Smithsonian and Blue Shield US, thinking what should be done.

And we decided that we will be doing an action that is considered with the Blue Shield founding members, knowing ICOM, IFLA and ICOMOS, and ICOMOS Lebanon, so we decided to start an action based on cultural heritage institutions. But what we needed to do first was damage assessment. And we wanted to go fast, so we decided to move on with the damage assessment platform that can be used as a web documentation. And we thought that we will go with it in a strategic plan saying we start with a damage assessment analysis, then that will move on to suggestions of what needs to be done. And we changed that until we arrived at the phase where we decided that we're going to do the securing, we wanted to secure the emergencies.

With a group of Lebanese computer engineers, we launched the damage assessment platform that we use for it based a lot on the car insurances because they do it very fast and we wanted to do something that is internet friendly that people can do online using their phone, therefore they can take the photo, upload it, put it on it, and instantly have a report that they can publish within, that they can have a report from every house within half an hour. Next please.

We made the group of Blue Shield volunteers, and by that time, our president at the time Karl von Habsburg came to Beirut, it had been two weeks on the mission, we were already there, we grouped a group of volunteers who wanted to take on the mission to start the operation for the damage assessment and to do it on the fields in Beirut on the streets. Next please.

And they were there for three months in a row, continuing. The group was made out of UMAC and the group from the Lebanese University, there are archaeology but also architecture students. They gathered the data for 650 houses (next please), and the final reports that came out of the mission were there. It's not very sophisticated but it's a very useful platform that is now being used by the funders, CER, to give it back and by Blue Shield, to give it back to other countries when needed.

It has a huge advantage that it can act as a search engine, once the data is there. While we were doing the phase one, we also started working on the phase two, which is to secure, to secure meaning we wanted to close down the facilities, next please, to close down the facilities in order for them, for the wind and the animals and the rain, because we were very scared of the rain at that time, and we had rain coming in two weeks after the blast, it was acidic rain, we wanted to close them so that nothing gets in.

So we start with the museums, and that was who had the biggest art objects. Yes, please. And then we started, we moved onto the houses, the most damaged one of them, and then we also went to the libraries, where you could see here the national library where we had secured, we had two ways of securing; either we could use wood, that was specially made for to last even in winter, or we could go for a textile, fabric that is very strong and that has a resistance of three years.

And we did that also for, next please, for the national library like this one, this is the Jesuit library, that was open space, and I like to say that this is the reading room, and that reading room, around it there are manuscripts that are 300 years old. When we entered the library the birds were already inside, so it was a priority to close. Everything was this geotextile fabric, next please, while we're doing the mission here comes the situation also for the houses, traditional houses that needed closing with the textile. In the middle of our mission comes our long term partners UNIFIL, who had just been deployed in Beirut, and who, with Peter and Karl and other colleagues, next please, we were already training them for the last three years, next please.

That's okay, we can move on, these are the security, to secure the houses. Okay, so they were going to be deployed in Beirut, and they were asking (and here I would like to thank our great colleague, Svetlana) they were asking if we can do an operation in Beirut?

[Can you click on the video?]

And we started an operation with them, and the Lebanese Armed Forces. It had three branches. One is to open the roads that were blocked in Beirut with historical houses, because historical buildings had collapsed. Two was to secure houses. And three, the biggest mission of them all, was to secure the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That was a building dating from the 19th century.

[video plays]

And right after that, we enter, this is the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I'll just like to say it's a 19th century building, it has the biggest wooden structure in Beirut, 900 square metres of open space. The blast went straight into the charpente, the wooden charpente, blew it up 30 metres up, and then it fell down again, breaking all the tiles and breaking the walls that were beneath it. It was a huge, architecturally speaking, operation that needed the help of soldiers. We had one metre and a half of debris inside the building.

It was a room that could reach up to 15 metres ceiling height. So it's an operation that really needed the skills of the soldiers. The mission was a mission where 100 soldiers took action between the UNIFIL and the LAF, and it was divided equally in terms of responsibility, where the LAF took care of everything that is a superstructure meaning the roof, especially, and the walls and UNIFIL had to work with everything that is related to the ground and the cleaning of the debris.

In 25 days, in 25 days the mission had secured the building. It had removed the debris and did a specific triage for the wood, the plaster and the tiles. And then, the aim of the mission was also to secure it. So, in the first picture you could see that, where we have the tiles that are broken, they removed every single tile. The wooden structure, again, covered the whole thing with a metal sheet called TOT that will cover it for the next three to five years, until it was secured. And then every single opening in the building, from windows to doors, were also secured and closed.

Thank you. Can we move next please. Meetings were taking place all the time but we also had at the hand of the mission we had a very specific meeting that was a one day workshop with the

soldiers where they were explaining to us, what did this mission give them, what did it mean to them to actually do work on historical houses, whether they were the Lebanese Armed Forces, or the UNIFIL forces. It was a joint workshop with Blue Shield International.

Next please.

This is the building secured after it. Yes. And then at the end of that day. We also, this is. Yes, please. This footage was taken on a Sunday morning, because we weren't sure that it was going to rain two days after it and therefore the mission didn't stop for 25 days. Next please.

On the last day of the mission as I mentioned we had a workshop, next please, and then all the soldiers who took part in the mission, and the workshop, had the certificate from the Emergency Response Unit. By then we had defined that the Emergency Response Unit was in charge of the mission, it was composed at the time of me, Karl von Habsburg and Corey Wagner and was President Peter Stone. That mission was not going to be possible if it wasn't for a full and continuous support on two levels. We had an international team of experts and the national team of experts. On the international team of experts, no please can we go back. On the international team of experts we had the Blue Shield International, the President was on and the Vice President was on continuous support, Corey Wagner was on continuous support, and so were the people in charge of the application at CER. And that made a huge difference to make the application to work on the ground possible, was the national team where the trust was a major element and it was very well built.

We had people from the LAF, from the UNIFIL, but also we had the Blue Shield Lebanon, ICOM, IFLA. We had the Biladi team and of course we had DGA experts. And we had all the unknown soldiers that were with us, like 100 soldiers, 40 volunteers. This mission would have never been done, it would have never been possible without the work of all this group of people, they were there nonstop for three months, because the Beirut operation took three months to finish as an operation.

The aim of it, please move on. The aim of it was to secure, and once it was secured, everything was secured, everything was done, we went out of Beirut, and we move to another level of collaboration because building on such a, yes it was a huge trauma, it was a very big horrible thing what took place, but we wanted to build something positive out of it and then, then the Lebanese Armed Forces and, next please, and the UNIFIL were very happy to continue the collaboration so we did the first CPP training for the Lebanese Armed Forces, and we moved on. After that, for another training, also with the Blue Shield International for the emergency response on four sites in Lebanon: in Tripoli, Baalbek, Saida, and Byblos.

And we have just ended the mission last week. It has been more than a year that we've been working almost nonstop on this work. I would like to thank each and every one of you who helped us on these missions on the international or on the national level. Nothing could have been done without your support, your trust, and most of all, without you believing that yes we can do it and we can change the situation in Lebanon. Thank you.

Peter Stone: Joanne, thank you very much indeed for that presentation. I've been embarrassing people all afternoon, I'm now going to embarrass you. Joanne and I have been working together since 2003, and I have never met anybody like her. She has worked in, let's say difficult situations and conflict situations since the end of the 1990s and constantly comes up with a smile, constantly comes up with a solution to any problem that anybody puts in her way, and she is an astonishing individual, a wonderful partner, and I will stop there but I could go on.

But what she does do is show the absolute critical aspect of partnership and long term partnership, that would not have worked all the work you've just seen, had we not been working with UNIFIL and LAF, with all of her assistance for the previous seven years, and to do that, The Hague Convention and all of the work that we do, really, um, you can really begin to understand it, as a piece time convention and there's a piece time activity, so that the problem hits, we're ready. And that's the critical thing, unfortunately, and unfortunately in Joanne's life that problem is hit far too often, but she, she does, to give her, some of the blame on her she goes looking for it in some instances, as a journalist, and as somebody who wants to help everybody, but that's just an astonishing piece of work so Joanne, thank you for that.

11 - Session 3: Michael Delacruz

Michael Delacruz: Hello everyone, my name is Michael Delacruz and I'm with the Secretariat of the Blue Shield International. And I'll be speaking to you today about recent activities of the Blue Shield in the area of civil-military cooperation.

The Blue Shield was founded on the principles of The 1954 Hague Convention to support cultural property protection in armed conflict, by working with militaries and civilians involved in that protection. Since our founding, we have developed and refined our approach, and my talk today will give you an overview of some of those activities.

This will be the order of service, starting with a discussion on what we term the four tier approach, which structures our civil military engagements, across a continuum from peacetime to post-conflict transition. Then, in the follow on discussion, I will discuss Blue Shield's activities across each of those four tiers and finally close out with some concluding observations about our future direction.

Military organisations are always in a sequential process of planning, preparation and execution, in what is also known as the operations process. Blue Shield network activities can constructively impact at any point in this process. In more broad terms, these developmental activities support the Blue Shield's four tier approach to protecting cultural property during military operations, through addressing all points within a continuum of conflict. From supporting sustained awareness during peacetime in steady state operations, pre-deployment preparation, prosecution of military operations, including conflict, and post-operational transition and

stabilisation. It is also important to recognise that at each tier, the military organisation could be at any point in the operations process; planning, preparing or executing activities.

So let's begin by taking a look at Blue Shield tier one activities, which are generally focused on maintaining long term readiness, preparing forces for unforeseen contingencies, or conducting partner training, or capacity development exercises in a security cooperation context.

In steady state efforts, our Blue Shield National Committees have a key role to play in maintaining long term relationships with other uniformed service counterparts. Here on the left, we see an image from a recent brigade level training exercise, supported by the members of the US National Committee to familiarise members from the US Civil Affairs Units with issues regarding cultural property protection. On the right, we see members of the UK Blue Shield discussing war damage to a historic church in Portsmouth. This, with a student group from the Cultural Property Protection Unit Special-to-Arm Course. In both cases, these training events were intended to develop long term sustained capability within their respective forces, and were not a response to a specific crisis.

One of the most effective ways of maintaining a sustained awareness and concern of CPP issues is through the various workshops and conferences, particularly those held by partner military organisations. One of the most successful venues for such discussions has been the Coping with Culture series of collaborative workshops hosted by the German Bundeswehr. This conference series, which draws upon a wide international network of participants from politics, civil society, military and the academic community, affords the opportunity to address specific geopolitical concerns that affect the consideration of cultural factors in military planning and operations.

The Blue Shield is also active in hosting its own events, often in partnership with other institutions, such as this last July with the Nordic Cultural Heritage Centre, to address issues such as the changing understanding of cultural heritage as a military issue or planning factor.

One area of activity that the Blue Shield has become increasingly active in is fostering cooperative, military to military partnerships in the area of cultural heritage protection, in a peacetime, security cooperation context. In these types of activities, the emphasis is on developing capabilities to support other government or civil society organisations in assessing environmental or human impacts on cultural heritage. As a case in point, Blue Shield recently supported US Southern Command by coordinating a subject matter exchange on cultural heritage site assessment, with US Army Civil Affairs personnel, members of the Honduran Army and Special Forces, and the Honduran Institute for History and Anthropology. The objectives of this engagement were to develop expertise, in both US and Honduran militaries, to support the Honduran government in assessing remote and inaccessible cultural heritage sites, potentially damaged by extreme weather events, such as hurricanes.

Tier two activities are involved in the special preparation of forces prior to deployment to support an unforeseen contingency or rotational operation or exercise. It might specifically involve some level of evaluation in order to support the assessment and readiness.

One of the areas where the Blue Shield has been most proactive in supporting pre-mission training has been with the UN Peacekeeping Missions, specifically the Blue Shield has had a longstanding relationship with UNIFIL since 2013 and in multiple cohorts since then, recently signing an MOU with UNIFIL in October 2020. The Blue Shield will be running a one week training course with the UN Peacekeeping School in Ireland in February 2022, with a multinational audience. We anticipate this will become an annual event. In addition, the Blue Shield has provided training to the Fijians in 2016 and 2017, and the Irish Defence Forces in 2019, in advance of peacekeeping operations.

Select members of the US National Committee of the Blue Shield have been instrumental in working with the US Department of Defence in pioneering realistic field training to prepare troops for deployment and support combat operations in the US Central Command area of the operations. Likewise, working closely with the recently re-established US Army Monuments officers, committee members assisted in the design and development of cultural property protection training programmes for civil affairs personnel deploying worldwide.

In the original definition of the four tier approach, the term to describe tier three is conflict which speaks to conditions of which The Hague Convention was designed. The nature of conflict or competition has taken on many faces since 1954 to include operations other than war. So in this regard, we rephrase this, for the purposes of this discussion, as operations in conflict or crisis. This also accounts for the requirement for the military to occasionally respond to natural or man-made disasters. Support to tier three is nonetheless the most pertinent and serious of all civil military coordination activities conducted by the Blue Shield across the entire operations process, to include planning, preparation and execution.

Where this has most significantly come into play in recent years is through increasing support provided to multilateral, NATO Article 5 exercises. It is under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty where the obligations of all member states to the collective defence of mutual interests are defined. Although cultural heritage plays a limited explicit role in the current NATO policy and procedural framework, this is where a strong, proactive response from the Blue Shield has been influential in reinforcing the common obligations all members of the alliance have in safeguarding cultural heritage throughout the Euro-Atlantic region, particularly in the context of collective defence. The Blue Shield has recently been involved in scenario development and execution of two such exercises in 2020 and 2021, and anticipates continuing that support in 2022.

Immediately following the horrendous explosion at the port in Beirut on the 4th of August last year, the Blue Shield supported the Lebanese NGO BILADI and the Lebanese Committee of the Blue Shield to help identify immediate security and safety needs for 600 historic buildings, 8 museums, 15 libraries and 10 art galleries. Building on a longstanding partnership between the Blue Shield, BILADI, the Directorate General of Antiquities, the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL, the partners were also able to secure and stabilise a number of historic buildings that had been damaged in the blast, including the one housing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With the lessons learnt from response and recovery operations, Blue Shield returned to Beirut in July

2021 for training courses organised and facilitated by and for the Lebanese Armed Forces Independent Works Regiment and for UNIFIL personnel. The sharing of most effective practices is an integral element to Blue Shield's approach to operations in crisis.

Tier four represents the Blue Shield's activities in support of post conflict or post crisis transition, and stabilisation. The Blue Shield has been actively engaged in supporting NATO exercises outside the Article Five context since 2018. Non Article Five exercises, and specifically those organised under Article Four are generally oriented towards mitigating tensions or instability in areas outside the Euro Atlantic region. These exercises afford the opportunity for the Blue Shield to introduce cultural property protection issues within a wide range of transitional or post conflict situations to include civil instability or unrest, transitional or unstable governments, developing an inconsistent public security. Not only do these exercises provide benefit to the training audiences, but they also allow the Blue Shield the opportunity to assess best practices in response to a variety of generated conditions.

In addition to NATO exercises, the Blue Shield, likewise engages with the broader uniform sector in their development of policies and protocols related to cultural property in the domain of stability policing. In November, 2021, we contributed to the first conference on CPP run by the NATO Centre of Excellence for Stability Policing, run by the Carabinieri, and we have been invited to work with them more closely, participating in the CPP network that they are establishing. Over the last two years, the Blue Shield has supported the OSC, the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe, in their training efforts, aimed not only at addressing illicit trafficking, but also in strengthening the understanding within the wider security sector of the obligations under The Hague '54 Convention.

So, in closing, in terms of our future directions in civil military engagement, the Blue Shield will further develop approaches for tier one security cooperation activities, maintain support to UN peacekeeping as a pillar of Blue Shield civ-mil engagement, broaden the National Committee capacity to develop and deliver general awareness and pre deployment training, continue its strengthening partnership with NATO in the scripting and execution of Article Five and Article Four exercises and enhance the expertise and understanding of cultural property protection issues in the context of stability and transition operations through close institutional partnerships.

Thank you for your attention.

12 - Session 3: The next 25 years, Peter Stone

So, the next 25 years. To look forward, you have to look back, and I always tell my students - or at least I did when I used to do a lot of teaching - that we study the past and culture to better understand the present, and to help create a better future.

The international community responded with the reaction to the devastation of the Second World War with an intergovernmental conference on the protection of cultural property, which came up with the 1954 Hague Convention, and what was at that point called the Blue and White Shield. And in 1955, one of the members of the ICRC who had been part of that conference, wrote (and this is RJ Willem): "In the future, the Red Cross should no longer be alone," (and I emphasise), "in its campaigning against indiscriminate methods of warfare; in any case, it should be able to count amongst its most faithful allies all those who worked to establish the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, and all those who consider it to be a valuable acquisition. May all of the efforts pursued both under the Red Cross and under the Blue and White Shield be mutually upheld in order that the aim in view may be more easily obtained."

Now, At some point, that idea was encapsulated in a phrase that the Blue Shield should become the cultural equivalent of the ICRC. We've not managed to find the first time that has been used, but it's a job for retirement to go through the archives and find that. Then in 1996, it took a number of years before the idea of the Blue and White Shield being an entity actually came to fruition, as we've heard with the founding four organisations. And that was in anticipation of course of the reaction to the destruction in the former Yugoslavia, which was the 1999 Second Protocol, which introduced in particular criminal liability and enhanced protection.

But why is the Blue Shield important and why is cultural property important? Well, critically, of course, if you go back to Heinrich Heine's play in 1821, "where they burn books they will in the end burn people too". And the image of course is of a bonfire of books in Nazi Germany in the 1930s, in which some of Heine's own books were burned. But he was talking of the burning of Islamic manuscripts in the Spanish Inquisition. Our argument for Blue Shield is people first, always, but cultural property is about people; it gives them their identity, it gives them their sense of place, as we've heard from people before, and the two are intertwined and completely indivisible.

I know most of us know this, but let me just re-emphasise why cultural property protection is important. Cultural property provides the tangible and intangible link to the past that helps provide both individuals and communities, and therefore wider society, with a sense of peace, a sense of identity, a sense of belonging, giving people a reason, and an ability, to live. Without it, communities become unstable, individuals without that memory, without that sense of place, identity, belonging, become dysfunctional individuals, as do their communities. Allowing it to be damaged, that's cultural property, or destroyed may or will cause problems for the heritage, humanitarian, and uniform sectors during and following conflict and disaster. I'll come back to those three sectors later. And again, to emphasise, we must always put the safety and social, mental, and economic wellbeing of people first. But that equally means protecting their cultural property, as so much of their wellbeing is invisibly intertwined with their cultural property. To show that intertwined nature, I sometimes show a slide of an appalling situation in the former Yugoslavia. I've chosen not to show it today, but the slide shows a mass grave. The mass grave is firstly filled with the inhabitants of a village who have been machine gunned and put into the mass grave, but the grave is then not filled with the material that was excavated from the grave, but is filled with the rubble of those individuals' mosque. Their mosque was destroyed and taken

down, as an archaeologist I would say to natural, so that there was no indication that a mosque or any building had been there before. And the two, the community, the people, buried with their cultural property, their mosque, you cannot get any clearer understanding of that relationship than that, and unfortunately, there were more than one examples of that happening.

So the Blue Shield in 2021 is an international NGO established under Dutch law, dedicated to the protection of heritage from conflicts and disasters. Crucially, it is independent and neutral. It comprises, as we've heard, the founding four heritage organisations, and at the moment I think it's 27 National Committees, and together those founding four and the National Committees elect an international board, and with that international board a small secretariat, currently funded by Newcastle as we've heard, is together called Blue Shield International. We have that distinction which I hope will become clear in the next few slides and the importance of that distinction between Blue Shield internationally and nationally.

So our primary context now, and I would argue for the next 25 years, is and will remain the 54 Hague Convention and its protocols. However, that is underpinned and broadened by wider international law, international humanitarian law, human rights law, criminal law, and the UN's and UNESCO's strategic agendas, so for example UN Security Council resolutions, and in particular, 2347, and the UNESCO's cultural conventions. And also we're conscious of the Sustainable Development Goals and, for example, things like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Critically, we see CPP as a multi-sector responsibility and opportunity. It cannot just be done by heritage people. And there you have one of our ex colleagues Paul Fox, working with NATO colleagues on a NATO exercise.

So, again, for the next 25 years. Yes, based on the 54 Hague Convention, but with an expanded vision, and I think many of the founding four touched on that expanded vision in their presentations earlier. So we're committed to the protection of the world's cultural property and we're concerned with the protection of cultural and natural heritage. Many parts of the world would say there is no such distinction. We're involved in tangible and intangible heritage, in the event of armed conflict, natural or human-made disaster, and following on from the conversation we had earlier, of course, one of the biggest human-made disasters, if not the biggest ever human-made disaster, is climate change. And that is critical to our work and will be for the next 25 years.

But put another way, the next 25-year vision is that we are committed to the development and maintenance of healthy, peaceful, secure, sustainable communities. And that's a point I'll come back to, because I think it's a point that we have in common with many others. So, we can't do that, as I've said, just as the heritage sector just doing it on our own. We need to work in peacetime, as we just mentioned after the work from the Beirut blast, and during and post-conflict with, as Michael Delacruz's presentation went through, that four tier approach, the four times that we need to interact as much as possible. And we need to do that with the uniform sector. And by that I mean not only the Armed Forces, but police, customs, the emergency services, the humanitarian sector, and of course, the heritage sector. But we also need to understand the political, legal, and media environments in which this work has to take place.

And we now have formal partnerships with, for example, the International Committee of the Red Cross, NATO, UNIFIL, and in process UNESCO.

Those three different sectors, heritage, humanitarian, and uniformed, have different starting points, but I think we have the same goal. And that goal is to reiterate the development and maintenance of healthy peaceful secure sustainable communities.

So we start in different places, but the goal, the end goal is the same. For the uniformed in humanitarian sectors, in particular perhaps, cultural property protection can provide a key contribution to their work, or it can be omitted, and become a serious threat or risk. But to work together, one of the things that took me many years to work out, is that we have to learn each other's languages. And just as an example of this, with thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Tim Purbrick who as you saw earlier as one of the examples of a Blue Shield on his arm, is why CPP is important for armed force deployment.

So firstly Tim says it's a responsibility, that's easy, it's a legal responsibility. But then critically. It's an opportunity to support mission success. It improves mission legitimacy, increases influence, improves reputation, improves force protection and human intelligence. It improves cultural understanding, prevents threat financing, facilitates post conflict stabilisation reconstruction and recovery, and in brackets there, which means that the military can go home more quickly. But from underlining all of that from Tim's point of view, it is a military moral obligation to communities, and the communities within which the military are deployed, and critically from Tim's point of view, failure to plan for CPP can lead to the alienation of the local population and the undermining of force credibility. So that's just one aspect of why CPP is important for the armed forces.

But again, we just had a really good example of this with Beirut. If we're to protect cultural property during war or following disaster, we must prepare in peacetime, we must build those connections, and those partnerships, we must identify the important cultural property. We must educate civilians, the heritage, humanitarian and uniform sectors in CPP. We must train heritage humanitarian uniform sectors. We must plan for the safeguarding of and respect for cultural property. Safeguarding and respect; the two most critical words in the '54 Convention. We must acknowledge the primacy of protecting people, but equally acknowledge the intertwined and indivisible nature of people and their heritage.

So I see the Blue Shield for the next 25 years being in many ways a triangle, with the three points of the triangle, being the heritage sector, the humanitarian sector and the uniform sector, and as put to me by a US military colleague, a few months ago now, the space within the triangle is the safe space created by the Blue Shield, where there are no stupid questions from any of those sectors, where we all come from our different starting points, but with our common end goal. Those secure, stable, safe, peaceful communities.

But we can't do that in isolation. And so we have to put that Blue Shield triangle of activity within the context of the political situation, the legal situation, the media situation and have we been

taught how to use social media by some of those that are normally described as terrorist organisations. But then at the bottom, the reason we do all of this, the communities.

So those are the foundations that we've got in place and we've put in place over the last five or, or more years of the last 25 years. The four tier approach, I'm not going to go through that in detail, you've heard it from Michael. It's critical. If you don't work long term, there's really no point trying to work short term.

Then you've heard from Claire about the six areas of activity. Now those who are listening and attending the conference who aren't within the Blue Shield movement, those six areas of activity are the areas that we ask everybody to plan to and report on, on an annual basis, but we don't say that you have to do them in this order, we asked all National Committees to identify which are the most prioritised areas of those six, and to reorder them as suits the national situation. We don't ask them necessarily to carry out activity under all six. It may be that, you know, the critical activity for the Lebanese Blue Shield is emergency response, and it may be that that's what they really only did last year. And that's perfectly fine. There's not a problem. But by working within that framework we pull us all together as a movement, we are identifiable as part of the same movement.

We also have, and I've identified eight threats to cultural property, originally, in terms of conflict, but it works just as well these traits in terms of disaster situations. So lack of military or humanitarian awareness and because of the lack of awareness or lack of planning, or is that the other way around. Does planning come before awareness? They're both intertwined. I'm not going to read them all out there, you can see them on the screen, but it's crucial again that we need to understand what the threats are, and try and mitigate them by good planning, by raising the level of awareness, by identifying the other threats and mitigating them, because with long term peacetime activity, we can significantly reduce those threats and stop them turning into real risks.

So some of our current work is building the capacity of National Committees and we just finished a training program, the first of three parts of a major training program. We are working, just as an example, with NATO on a template for better and more specialised CPP information, so that we can replicate the success that you see in the slide there, where the NATO air campaign in Libya, a target here identified, sitting in an airfield in the Netherlands, identified six vehicles in a derelict building, and those vehicles were vehicles placed there, and had been for some time by forces loyal to President Gaddafi. And some were just outside the derelict building, and some were inside. As you can see there.

The target here had identified a weapon to destroy all six of those individual vehicles, and the derelict building. I don't know the detail of what happened next, but the equivalent of a red light flashed on his or her computer, and as a result of that, the red light flagged that the coordinates that we had given them for a Roman series of buildings that we would prefer not to be damaged if at all possible, we given them as the Blue Shield led by the US Blue Shield with support from the UK Blue Shield. The military decision went up the hierarchy, and instead of using one large

bomb to destroy all six vehicles, and what had been identified as a derelict building, they used six precision weapons, and you can see the tangled massive metal in front of the building where all of the other five look in a very similar way. So, there is good work, good partnership between Blue Shield and NATO there, but we want to build that better, we want to get that better, so working on that template.

We're working with NATO to develop exercise input and with others, not only NATO, so Michael Dela Cruz had to leave because he is at the moment, in a planning meeting with United States military and the Honduran military. In terms of an exercise which will be taking place later in, or next year in 2022. We're developing generic training materials as you heard in Michael's presentation, and a course run at the UN peacekeeping school in Ireland for peacekeeping missions. And we're working closely with, or beginning to work closely with, the humanitarian sector. One of the first things that, sorry, one of the last things that we did before covid lockdown was sign an MMU with the International Committee of the Red Cross and I hope that we will be back working closely with the ICRC in the forthcoming months.

So that's just some of the stuff that we're doing, what do we want to do? what do I see as the next 25 years? Well firstly we need to build on all of those foundations, we have got something that shows an international movement, made up of an international organisation, and national elements of that. We can't expect every National Committee to be fully independent of its national situation. So, we expect National Committees to work with their national military. They can't be completely neutral in that respect. So we have to have that distinction between the international organisation, which is independent and neutral, and those National Committees that will work closely, trying to mitigate any damage done by their national armed forces and working with national humanitarian agencies, and the such. So that's the first thing to build on those foundations.

Secondly, we need a funded central team that has a longer lifespan than the funding that Newcastle University has been able to so far, put into the support of the Blue Shield and again, I thank the university for doing that. I don't see why in the next 25 years, because we've got that foundation, because we've got a system that works now, especially if we have a central team, that we can't have 100 National Committees and moving towards the same number of who have actually ratified the '54 convention and other critical international conventions.

We want to be working far more closely with partners internationally. And of course, nationally, but the UN, for example, its constituent parts, and with the Sphere standards Humanitarian action, all of those sorts of things, and a critical name that we should mention here with all of our work with the humanitarian work, is not only colleagues within the ICRC, now becoming to be too numerous to mention, but also somebody who's given us a lot of time pro bono, a humanitarian consultant Jennifer Price Jones. So great thanks to Jennifer for all of that work and helping build those connections.

We don't want to be a European organisation, we're not already, but we want to make that far more explicit by working with partners at a much wider regional level, the African Union, and

organisations in Asia and the Pacific in South America, globally, we need to become the global organisation, trusted by everybody as the independent, neutral and standard setting organisations in terms of organisation in terms of CPP. We need to have established in the next 25 years, I hope within the next five years, with partners that CPP and armed conflict and following disasters, is the norm. It's not something that comes as a surprise. It's something that we need to have there as a basis because critically, and going back to that article for 1955 from the ICRC, what we are doing with all of this work, and even though it sounds implausible as a task, it's critical that we keep it in mind, what we are doing is trying to take real steps to mitigate and significantly reduce indiscriminate methods of warfare. That bottom line is what we and the ICRC are about and why we should become, need to become, equivalent organisations.

And there we are in Geneva, with colleagues from the ICRC, Jennifer there on the right, Karl Habsburg in the middle, who was then still president, and Eve Dacour there, and you'll see the lady in the middle so I'll leave the surprise until tomorrow but you'll see her tomorrow. And we'll work together with the ICRC to develop that mutual cooperation, collaboration, and working to help make war a better place. If only we could get rid of it entirely. Thank you very much.

13 - Session 3: Q & A

Peter Stone: There are, as one would expect, a number of credits [in the chat] to Joanne for all of that work, and with all of the work that she and others are able to do.

[Reads chat comments] Blue Shield is the Red Cross for cultural heritage. Thank you, Esman, we need to work there and get it more clearly there.

Yes, Jasmine, extremely important to educate across the civil society regarding cultural heritage to create and strengthen the awareness of its own history and cultural heritage, and thus also help create respect for the cultural heritage of others, a critical element. So essential and Jasmine working, of course, in relation to Armenian cultural heritage in the South Caucasus.

There are partners in South America and Anna, if you drop me an email, I can give you the list of who there is and everything.

Note from Jennifer. Yeah, thank you.

From Bone. I hope that's my old colleague Bone Jones from my York archaeological excavation days, but if it is, Bone, thank you, and yes, getting there.

Okay, and they're just thanks for the presentations.

How can we build a Blue Shield committee in any country? Esman, there's a lot of information about that on the website, but again, if you can't find anything, please just email either myself or Emma, and we'll come back to you on that.

Nicole Hoffman. Are there Blue Shield partners in Southern Africa? I think I'm right in saying that the furthest south is Mozambique, and so, yes, that would be categorised as Southern Africa. But again, there is a list of National Committees on the website there.

JL asks: currently national organisations are put together on a voluntary basis from the countries themselves. Have any of the national teams been asked to target or help set up teams where people have not come forward? We have done that to some extent, but we haven't done that often. There is a project at the moment, run by Blue Shield Germany, helping National Committees develop in Africa. But most of those are centred around Francophone West Africa. But we can work on that.

In addition to National Committees of Blue Shield, can we have regional alliances? So, Esman, if you mean by that, can we have groupings of countries as regional elements? We try to avoid that at the moment for all sorts of reasons that I can go into, but I want to open the conversation more broadly. There are two instances, however, where we are hoping to be able to do that, one in the Pacific and one in the Caribbean, and that will give you the indication about why we're trying to go in that direction, because most of the countries in the Pacific and the Caribbean regard themselves as too small to have the capability to set up a national committee. So they are working together. So, we have seven countries in the Pacific who have come together to form Blue Shield Pacifica. That is not yet formally recognised as such as a national committee, we have to wait until we can agree a set of changed Articles of Association before those two can become legally constituent parts, but Blue Shield Pacifica is working in many ways as if it was a legally constituent part as it is at the moment. So, yes, there may be more funding if we unite more. And one of the things that I didn't flag in my presentation is that what I'm really trying to do over the next two years is really push with a fundraising project that we've been talking to a number of people about over the last 12 months or more, and to really push that over the next 24 months, so that we don't necessarily have to rely in the longer, or even medium, term on Newcastle University.

So, those are some immediate comments and questions and our responses. Does anybody want to ask a question who is there? Or do any of the speakers, Joanne, Patty, Claire, wish to add anything to what you've already said?

Nope? Okay. Okay, we've got a couple of other comments and things that you can all read. We are technically a minute away from where we estimated the end of the day to be. So that's a piece of astonishing luck.

So from I think that's Allison Packard. Maybe not. The Blue Shield internationally is registered under Dutch law. At national level there are all sorts of different ways that the Blue Shield has

been founded. So it's not an easy answer Allison, to answer that. But again, if you email either Emma or myself we can give you a bit more information.

So, in the US, it's what we in the UK would call a charity, but it's a 501 organisation, is that right Patty?

Patty Gerstenblith: It's a 501 C3 which is part of the tax code, which deals with charitable organisations, so it's also incorporated as a charity.

Peter Stone: Yep, a 501 C3.

Patty Gerstenblith: What was that, I'm sorry?

Peter Stone: 501 C3. The C3 is the bit I always forget.

Patty Gerstenblith: That's okay, we don't need anyone else to know that.

Peter Stone: Okay, and Lynn. Good to see that there are policies. Yes. I wonder whether interagency coordination could be built into the multilateral system, as well as the normalisation of cultural heritage as an essential element of any international development portfolio.

Yeah, development is one of the eight major threats to cultural property, which is always there, but is exacerbated during disaster or armed conflict, and development is a key issue.

So, anybody else? Going once, going twice.

14 - Day One, Close

Peter Stone: Okay, thank you very much everybody for joining us for today. I think we've been entertained with a fantastic range of presentations. Thank you to the founding four, thank you to Patty and Joanne for reporting on their work, and to Claire for trying to do the impossible. And don't forget that this is only the first half. So tomorrow, most of the day is set aside to non-internal organisations, so those of our partners that we work with internationally already, and some that we aspire to work more closely with over the next few years. So thank you very much indeed. Emma, unless you tell me there is anything else I need to do. Is there anything more?

Emma Cunliffe: No, thank you very much everybody. Hope to see you tomorrow.

Peter Stone: Okay, thank you very much. We will see you at the same time, whatever that time was in your part of the world. And good luck, goodnight, good morning, whatever it is, and thank you, bye bye.

15 - Day Two Welcome

Peter Stone: Okay, good morning, good afternoon, good evening, whatever it is in your part of the world. Thank you for joining us for this second day of the Blue Shield 25th anniversary conference.

For those of you who didn't manage to join us yesterday, we had a splendid day of presentations mainly looking from the inside of the organisation out and discussing what we could do to develop ideas and to develop the organisation from the inside out.

Today, we flip that in many ways, and we have presentations from colleagues from a number of different organisations external to the Blue Shield, nearly all of whom we work with to some degree or other, but we are starting with a short session of three presentations with some of our formal partners that we have some level of formal agreement with. And then we'll go into partnerships where we've worked with organisations and colleagues, and we hope to build on that work certainly over the next 25 years.

16 - Session 1: Helen Durham, ICRC

Helen Durham: Distinguished guests, partners, and colleagues, it is my great pleasure to address you today on behalf of the ICRC, as we join together to celebrate 25 years of the Blue Shield. That is 25 years of dedication to protecting cultural property during times of armed conflict, a cause that is close to the heart of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and one which unfortunately remains a humanitarian imperative, despite the explicit protections for cultural property contained in international humanitarian law or IHL.

As guardians of IHL, the ICRC welcomes all initiatives that aim to enhance respect for this area of law. It is for this reason that, the 13 February 2020, is a day that I am proud of. On that day we welcomed representatives of the Blue Shield to our headquarters here in Geneva and signed a memorandum of understanding between our two organisations, an agreement which formalised our partnership in order to maximise the impact of our programs designed to protect cultural property, ultimately to seek the reduction of unnecessary suffering during times of armed conflict.

Now, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Blue Shield, I not only send my warm congratulations and best wishes to the team of the Blue Shield, but I take this as an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the ICRC to our partnership. The ICRC continues to stand with Blue Shield against deliberate attacks on cultural heritage, which in all too many instances serve as a mark of contempt towards a civilian population. As we know, contempt can too often serve as an excuse, or even a pretext, for the worst outrageous inflicted during armed conflict. And it is for this reason that the ICRC continues to consider the struggle to defend cultural property of a population as an integral part of the humanitarian operation aimed at protecting that population from the worst impact of war.

We therefore look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Blue Shield in order to advance measures designed to protect cultural property during times of armed conflict. So, to all in the Blue Shield, congratulations on the last 25 years, and thank you for your service to international humanitarian law. I will be watching with great interest what you achieve in the next 25 years.

Thank you very much.

17 - Session 1: Major General Stefano Del Col, UNIFIL

Stefano Del Col: Respected representatives of the “four founders”,
Respected Professor Peter Stone, President of Blue Shield International,
Esteemed Blue Shield Board members,
And representatives of the Blue Shield community,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this virtual celebration marking the 25th anniversary of Blue Shield.

I commend the “founding four” organisations for their wisdom and vision in bringing together professionals and institutions across the cultural spectrum, to respond to emergencies and crises.

Looking back, Blue Shield’s contribution to international peace and stability has been demonstrated many times, particularly in the context of recent armed conflicts from Iraq to Afghanistan to Mali, and most recently in Syria and the surrounding region.

The importance of raising awareness of the importance of cultural heritage – and peacekeepers’ role in protecting it, has resonated strongly with our peacekeepers in UNIFIL. The pattern of deliberate destruction of cultural heritage throughout the middle east has shocked us all. Blue Shield has helped cement a relationship between us, the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Lebanon, and Lebanon’s unique archeological and cultural heritage.

As the Head of Mission and Force Commander of this peacekeeping mission, I am very proud to have invited Blue Shield experts to work with UNIFIL peacekeepers, to enhance their awareness on the cultural environment they work in. By familiarizing them with the principles of international instruments and techniques to safeguard and respect cultural property, and to prevent damage to cultural property under their watch, you have helped peacekeepers build better relations with the host community.

Dear Professor Stone, only a year ago we were concluding an extraordinary operation together, working to save culturally significant buildings in Beirut, following the tragic port blast in August 2020.

The explosion that rocked the city devastated structures in the city centre, including many sites of cultural importance. This tragic event brought our two organisations together and enabled us to put into practice, what we had learned during our training on the protection of cultural heritage at UNIFIL's headquarters in Naqoura.

Let me also thank Karl von Habsburg, former President of Blue Shield International, for his dedication and contribution to support the heritage sites of Beirut after the blast of 4 August 2020 and those in Tyre.

UNIFIL peacekeepers were proud to contribute to the emergency response and help secure historical buildings against further damage. We were proud to do this alongside our strategic partners, the Lebanese Armed Forces, and under the guidance of Blue Shield experts, led by the Biladi NGO.

In doing this work together, we built on past experience gained through civil-military cooperation and put theory into practice in the streets of Beirut.

Together, we cleared 500 tons of rubble. From this, 150 tons of stones, façade materials, and wooden ornaments were salvaged and stored for future rehabilitation and reuse.

The success of this humanitarian response and relief effort was due to the partnership between UNIFIL and Blue Shield. This partnership was solidified with our Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation, signed just over a year ago, on October 27th, 2020.

I am proud to be part of the unique mechanism of cooperation we have created together to protect Lebanon's precious heritage. It is especially meaningful as UNIFIL is deployed in the very area where the UNESCO world heritage site of Tyre is located.

Safeguarding such heritage, however, is a responsibility that UNIFIL cannot assume alone.

And that's why our partnership is so important. I know that our cooperation will continue, and i look for opportunities for UNIFIL to safeguarding cultural heritage in south Lebanon.

Thank you for inviting me to take part in your celebration, and congratulations on your 25th anniversary. Keep up your excellent and important work..

18 - Session 1: Lazare Eloundou, UNESCO

Lazare Eloundou: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm honoured to contribute to this event, and to celebrate with you the 25th anniversary of Blue Shield International.

Through the years, and thanks to the praiseworthy commitment and effort of the members of Blue Shield International, this organisation has achieved since 1996 incredible deeds in favour of the protection of the wars' cultural heritage in times of conflict, disaster and crisis.

Since its creation 25 years ago, Blue Shield international ensures worldwide recognition and diffusion of the principles of the 1954 Hague Convention and these two protocols. As the emanating advisory body of the 1954 Hague Convention, in building its symbol, Blue Shield international is a crucial partner for UNESCO on the international stage to raise awareness, train, protect, respect, safeguard, and rebuild heritage against every disaster that may befall on it.

Blue Shield's and UNESCO's long-standing partnership has thrived for many years, and borne fruitful achievements that have reached multiple stakeholders. I am particularly recalling during the past few years our joint military and civil military training in Georgia, Lebanon, Italy, Greece, and the UK, as well as our common awareness-raising activities for NATO, and OSCE. Reaching these key actors, and instilling them with the precepts of the Hague Convention before disaster strikes, is one of the core solutions to prevent destruction in times of conflict.

Moreover, Professor Stone's position as UNESCO chair for cultural property protection in peace has intensified the ties between our two organisations that have enabled us to share expertise and build on mutual support.

We are convinced that this relationship will endure, and grow in the forthcoming years, and that it will be based upon solid ties giving birth to projects having definite impact on the protection of heritage and the livelihoods of affected communities.

We most heartedly wish to work alongside Blue Shield International and accompany it in its work to encourage further ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two protocols.

Gaining from their experience and feedback, we also hope to research into international good practices on its implementation to design guidelines and recommendations, as well as to provide technical assistance for old, new, or will-be state parties. Furthermore, we sincerely hope that our previous exercises together will be multiplied in the future to reach a diverse and inclusive audience of stakeholders.

To conclude, let me congratulate once again Blue Shield International and its Secretariat members for achieving these 25 successful years of existence and wish them equally outstanding coming years that will see them consolidating, expanding, and becoming, I'm sure, a true global player.

Thank you for your attention and continued support.

19 - Session 2: Florian Krejsa, OSCE

Florian Krejsa: So first of all, thank you for Peter for giving me the floor and for inviting us, and also from our side, from the OSCE, congratulations to the 25th anniversary of Blue Shield and a very important partner for us, in recent years and hopefully for the years to come. I'll be very brief because I want to leave enough time for all the other speakers and I looked at the agenda - it is amazing what kind of partners you have gathered over the years and what partnerships have been developed over the past 25 years. So I will just take 10 to 15 minutes to show you what the OSCE has done so far in this field and what our goal is for where we want to go in the future.

First of all, you heard yesterday, for those who were here, a lot about the problem of trafficking in cultural property. As I'm working for the border security and management unit of the OSCE's transnational threats department, this is, let's say, our field of expertise, where we come in to help or to work.

Just some short facts: works of art and artefacts are the third most traffic commodity nowadays; and the rate of traffic of intellectual property and artefacts in arts is on the rise. We also talked about destruction and looting and this is something you will never be able to bring back but was also a problem. Connected to the trafficking in cultural property, is that terrorist groups, and other criminal groups, use those revenues and gains from the trafficking to finance their terrorist attacks and use it for money laundering.

What's also a problem is, especially for terrorist groups or criminal groups, that there's a lot of money in trafficking in cultural property, and as you can see right now, since we're dealing with a gray zone, it's estimated between 3.5 to over 6 billion US dollars annually.

So, this is where the OSCE comes in. And just to give you a little bit of base: all of our work is based on the OSCE border security management concept, which was established in 2005, and this is the basis for all our UB, which means unified budget and extra budgetary activities, and we'll get to that a bit later.

It also gives us the mandate for the enforcement and implementation of international legal frameworks such as UNESCO, UNSCR, and WCO Conventions and Resolutions for example. But for the first 10 to 11 years, we were dealing with topics such as delimitation, demarcation, anti-corruption, trafficking of small arms, and light weapons, drugs, and so on, but not with the trafficking in cultural property.

I want to put your attention on the top of the screen, where my mouse is. We have a security community magazine, and in this, in 2016, our boss Dennis Cosgrove, who is a former FBI agent, gave an interview. Within this interview, he was talking about his experiences from his former job, where he was working against illicit trafficking in cultural property, and based on that article we had a lot of requests by participating states to work more on this topic. After sitting

down and discussing the probability of such a project, we then launched in 2016 our first project on this phenomenon.

Since then we have achieved a lot. Well, of course not enough, but we have achieved a lot. Not only have we worked on four regional awareness-raising conferences, which were held in regions such as Central Asia or South Eastern Europe, but we also work on 11 capacity-building activities together with the military training base in Kilkis, Greece, or the WCO. When I talk about awareness raising it's not only about the awareness raising that there is trafficking in cultural property, but also awareness raising for border guards - and this is mainly the audience that we have in our trainings and in our conferences - about what to do when they see something, because, as I said already in the conference before, most of the time, border guards unfortunately are not art history majors, and therefore they don't see in the first moment when they open a suitcase and they have an artefact or some stones in there, whether they have worth, or they're just souvenirs and not, let's say, so important. So therefore, our job in awareness raising is to tell those border guards, first and second line border guards: When you see something, please report it.

And this brings me to the next slide. First of all I want to draw your attention to the centre of the slide which is our cultural property resource platform. As I said, border guards have not had the possibility to study art and art history and everything and also be aware of weapons and drugs and so on. So, therefore, our plan and our goal was not only to bring them training and conferences where they learn how to handle artefacts and how to recognise artefact, but also to give them an online platform where they can quickly find resources and materials, not only on what to do with the artefacts, but also to whom they should reach out, in the case that they find something.

So as you see here in the middle, this is our platform and if you are interested in getting access to this platform, you will see my email address at the end of the presentation. Just write to me, and I will grant you access to this platform where you can find not only instructions and information for Border Services, customs police and army services, but also other interesting material that has been gathered by all our partners.

And this brings me to everything that is around this centre slide: our partners. Over the years, and it's five years now, we have gathered a lot of them. And you see Blue Shield of course but also Interpol, ICOM, The Carabinieri, UNESCO. I can name them all and unfortunately they wouldn't all fit on this slide because there are many, many more and we're happy about this huge group of partners because this is the only way to attack this issue and this phenomenon, by working together. And this is once more a reason why I'm very happy to speak here and to be allowed to speak here because through our cooperation with Blue Shield, we have established so much more. I will go into detail on my next slide about what this includes because these are our plans for the future.

So what you're seeing now was a project that was running from 2016 up until this year. And as we closed our current project, we already started our new project, which is in the first line and

will run for the next five years. In this project, we tried to take a more advanced approach to this issue, so we're far beyond just raising awareness because by now everybody should know that this is an issue. I know it's not a fact so we will continue the awareness raising, but we have to go beyond that.

First of all, in the middle you can see our plan is to hold an annual OSCE-wide meeting on combating the trafficking in cultural property, which will include all are participating states and partners for cooperation, but also include all the experts you have seen on the previous slide.

In this meeting, we want to gather all the information possible and attend. We want to get our best practices, and also lessons learned from the previous year, whether new routes for trafficking, or new techniques for trafficking, whatever has been identified over the past year. Based on that, we want to build an action plan which will lead to the work of our newly instated intercept team. This is a team of experts, again gathered from all the partners that have been seen on the previous slide, which will go out to our participating states and will assess the situation, based on the action plan, and decided what is needed, and then give tailor-made training to those participating states to better attack this phenomenon.

While this is the main string of the upcoming project, we have a lot of interesting and useful stuff going in parallel to that. First of all, on the left hand side you see communications. We have started to produce - unfortunately they have not been released so far - a new podcast series that is supposed to go out on Spotify, hopefully, early next year. That should also raise awareness on this topic in the broader public.

As I've mentioned before, we have this police training platform that you have seen on the previous slide. That will be expanded and worked on constantly to also include those lessons learned that I've talked about that we want to gather into our annual conference.

We continuously work with our OSCE field missions to further work on the partnerships with local entities. And last but not least (and this brings me back to the cooperation with Blue Shield), we are working on a postgraduate study program with the University of Krems. This only came into play because we got to know Anna Kaiser, who is in the audience today, at a Blue Shield event in London I think in 2019. And without that we would have never started this fruitful cooperation, so networking, cooperating, and partnerships are of utmost importance in this field.

And this basically brings me to the conclusion. I want to again thank Blue Shield for all they have done for us, especially also Peter Stone, who has been an integral partner in our last training in Kilkis, Greece for the military training facility in Kilkis. And I hope that for the next 25, 50 and 75 years, our cooperation will still be as large as it has been over the past two years.

Thank you very much.

Peter Stone: Florian, thank you very much indeed for that. And I hope you're not anticipating me being around for the next 50 or 75 years; I would be looking very old and decrepit, even more so than I am, but our successes will be. I'm sure Emma will still be around, so that's grand. Thank you very much indeed for that presentation. There are a number of points there that echoed issues that were picked up yesterday, and there are things obviously that we can add to the discussion.

20 - Session 2: Corrado Catesi, Interpol

Peter stone: And we now have Corrado. Corrado is the coordinator for Interpol's Works of Art Unit, so Corrado, over to you, and all yours.

Corrado Catesi: Very shortly, only to understand what illicit trafficking of cultural property is, the illicit trafficking of cultural property is an international crime that affects all countries of the world. No country can consider itself immune from this kind of crime. Indeed, only looking at the data of a 2020 report from 72 Interpol member countries, we can see that more than 9000 offences were reported, more than 25 000 items were stolen, and more than 854 000 items were seized. Of course, we have a decrease in the number compared to 2019 as you can see from this slide, but at the same time if you think that in 2020 we were in a full lockdown, it means that for organised crime, and for terrorists, this is a really important field from which to gain profit.

Now, the main problem in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property is the lack of inventories. Indeed, as we saw in the different conflict countries, when museums, public collections, or private collections are looted, it is impossible to insert this data in the national stolen works of art database, and as a consequence, is not possible to insert this data in the Interpol stolen works of art database because we have very few objects in different countries which are inventoried well.

The lack of inventory is one problem. Too little data at international level is the second problem. But also we have few tools for police and customs in the field. It is just not possible for police and customs to check the provenance of an object, i.e., if the object is licit or illicit as a provenance, because even if there is a connection to different databases, it is only in the offices.

There is also a lack of tools for crisis situations. For this reason, on 6 May this year, we launched the first Interpol mobile application called ID-ART. ID-ART is not Access Controlled. It means that everyone can download it without giving personal details, and all of you know that if you download a simple family mobile application, it is necessary at the moment to give a personal address and name. With ID-Art, you've only got to accept a terms of use and a privacy policy, nothing more. The mobile application works in Interpol's four official languages, Arabic, English, French, and Spanish, and it was built for the main stores, i.e., Apple and Android. This way, we are able to cover 90% of the mobile devices in the world. The mobile application gives

everyone the possibility to check against the Interpol database. It means that all people, all users anywhere in the world, at any time, have the possibility to check against the Interpol database, to check the provenance of an object, to see if the objects in front of them that they want to buy are only exhibited or were reported as stolen to Interpol.

But of course, the mobile application is for all users; it means that it may be used by law enforcement, as well as the general public. I would like to remind you that the mobile application is giving access to the Interpol stolen works of art database which has been accessible to the general public since 2009. But the application will be good for solving some strategy points, the first being to give you the possibility to make object IDs, which means that you inventory objects, especially to give tools in crisis situations. The mobile application is not controlled by Interpol, which means that all activities done by the users are not controlled by us. The only things that we can do are see how many users we have, how many downloads and in which countries the mobile application is downloaded, nothing more. You have a few seconds to download the mobile application if you haven't done it yet. There are QR codes for the Apple Store or Google Play.

The main activities and capabilities of the mobile application. When you go to open the mobile application (and this is the only slide where you will see the difference between Android and iOS systems), you will see the items reported as stolen in the country of your carrier or that you will select. As you can see, the mobile application appears differently for Android and iOS, but it is only how it is displayed, because the main capabilities are the same.

Now the main activities that you can do with the mobile application are the manual and the visual search. They are both totally different, because with the manual search you can also save the search if you have any study, but with the visual search, you can't. Now, coming to the part that is more concerning to the conference that we are at today, the part called My Inventory, where you can fill in the object ID to inventory your own collection, the collection of your museum, or your foundation, or the site card. The object ID is really important. It is of course an international standard to inventory objects of art: the structure of the object ID's also link to the Interpol Works of Art database, which means that if you inventory an object of art, thanks to the object ID, thanks to the mobile application, if one day you become the victim of theft as a museum or as a private collector and so on, you can export the PDF of your object ID and send it directly to the police. In this way, the police will have the most important information to record the stolen items in your national database. And thanks to that, they will be able to insert in the Interpol stolen works of art database. It means that objects that you inventory, thanks to the use of the mobile application, may be inserted into the Interpol database because we will have all necessary information to update it. Indeed, at the international level we have little data, because we have a lack of inventory but thanks for the opportunity that is free, all people can inventory their own collection.

But now coming to the site card, that is in the box in the down, top bar, as you can see. When you go to use the inventory, why should you do the site card? Firstly, you can collect information for personal reasons, e.g., because you are in an ecological address or a cultural address or

you are in front of a cultural building and you want to take some notes about the building. You can of course do this using the site card, but you can also send information on areas under crisis situations like natural disasters, terrorist attacks, wars, and so on. But also it may be used by police enforcement, as well as by the general public, to report crimes like illicit excavations, thefts, but also vandalism against cultural buildings or cultural areas

Now, how to create a site card is very very simple. You go to the site card, you go to select and add site card. This is a screenshot of the main site card. As you can see, you can do several activities. The first one, which is most important, is to take photos. You can take not only one photo, but you can take as many as you want to because the mobile application is able to record all the data that you want, and also all folders that you are going to make may be deleted and added again. Of course, because sometimes the archeological areas, the cultural areas and the cultural buildings, can be outside of the village, of the country, of the well known sites, you can take the global position coordinates in this way without spending time. By pushing it [the button], you will have all the information to locate again the sites that you are inventorying.

But of course, you will be able to select the date of observation, the general condition of the site, and if the building was heated, damaged, or partially destroyed by an event, you can also select these possibilities, and report the date of the event.

Also you have, especially if you are an expert, these three fields that are the cause of the event, observations and additional information. In these three fields, you can put more than 6000 characters to explain everything which is important to the people you will forward the PDF to. Indeed, all site cards, once they are finished, can be exported to a PDF sent to your mobile devices, or to the people that you want.

This is indeed the site card. It was an example for the case of the church of Sant'Agostino that was hit in the last earthquake in Italy, and as you can see, you can always edit or delete the site card. Also to extract a PDF, only press the icon on the bottom line.

And only to repeat, to end my presentation, we invented these international standard that we called site cards to give to anyone, or to the law enforcement that we lacked to protect the cultural heritage hit during a natural disaster or conflict zone or by vandalism. And as you can see, I put the church and also underwater cultural heritage sites and a simple illicit excavation.

Thanks to the use of the mobile application, the people will be able to report information to the authority in charge. In this way, I will give you an example. When there is (but you know better than me) a crisis situation, there is a need to have immediate information on this site that you have to protect. It's important to know if it is necessary to go immediately to this site. If it's not important to go immediately because the site is well protected, it was not damaged, or was not partially destroyed, so that the box is safe and the objects of art are still safe in the box, there is no need to immediately send someone to check if you put in security on the site. Moreover, it should be possible to prioritise other sites that are at risk, that were hit.

And if we receive information from the people, from the users of the mobile application, about the situation of the cultural heritage site during crisis situations, the authority in charge of protecting the boxes and the objects inside the boxes will be for sure able to prioritise the mission in the different sites that you protect. Currently, I think that the Blue Shield in Belgium already is starting to use the site cards and the object IDs to have an inventory of the areas, the cultural areas and the cultural buildings that they want to protect. And I hope that also all of you can use it. And as Interpol we're also ready to organise a specific training because it was a simple presentation but please ask us how to use the mobile application.

And from my side I hope that I was still in the time that was given to me, and I thank you again, Peter, really, for this great opportunity to be with you, and also for tolerating my delay. And I will stay until the end of the panellists if anyone has any questions to ask. Thank you for giving me the floor, Peter.

Peter Stone: Corrado, thank you very much indeed and thank you for rushing from airport to office to do the presentation. Great dedication and thank you. If you can stay on until the end, if there are questions, we can pick them up from there.

21 - Session 2: Colonel Youssef Haydar

Peter Stone: We now move to Colonel Yusef Haidar from the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Youssef Haydar: I'm Colonel Youssef Haydar, the Commander of the Independent Works Regiment in the Lebanese Armed Forces. First, I would like to congratulate Blue Shield for your 25th anniversary. And thank you, Professor Peter, for allowing us to participate in this valuable meeting. Thank you. Now I will leave the floor for the presentation, and if any questions come up, I'll be ready to answer. Thank you.

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Colonel Youssef Haydar, the Independent Works Regiment Commander in the Lebanese Armed Forces. First I would like to congratulate Blue Shield International for their 25th anniversary, and wish you all the best. And I will seize this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to participate in this conference.

My presentation will be as such. We'll talk a little bit about the regiment in itself: its mission, vision and capabilities. We'll talk about the Beirut Harbour Blast and the CPP capability... the beginning, protecting the MOFA and the CPP training.

This is the organisational chart. We have the company level, we have the special excavation level, the manufacturing level, five works companies, a heavy equipment company and command and support.

Our mission is executing civil engineering works of all kinds, and carrying out special excavations above- and underground (tunnels, warehouses, shelters) issued by the army commander headquarters, and we mean by that the J4. To do so, we have to inspect the work site, identify the required works and materials, and do procurement and executing.

Our vision is to enhance efficiency through using in-house and cost-effective products to fulfil LAF units' needs for different types of facilities. We aim to create CPP capabilities within the Regiment's task force units to protect the cultural heritage spread all over the country during emergencies.

As you see, this is our area of operation. The companies are deployed all over the country, and the other three companies back up these.

These are some products we use in the regiment. We have ordinary bricks, fair face bricks, elevation stones, tiles, and many more. We work with wood, iron, glass, aluminium, and we manufacture all types of paints. Construction of modular structures, such as blocks, T-walls and modular warehouses. The wood construction technique we gained from working with the Seabees, US Navy. The Hesco basket technique we use as anti-flood, shooting houses and FOBs.

The massive destruction of the harbour on 4 August at 18:07. We started this mission from the beginning until 4 November - 90 days of non-stop working in the harbour region. One hour after the blast, we entered to open the path for the Medevac and the fire fighters. 48 hours after the blast, the northern part of the port, which was less damaged, was functional again. We also contributed to firefighting, and we work hand in hand with Allied troops inside the port and outside the port. We worked with the GT Ventoux for 30 days, the CERDI Task Force for 25 days, 21 days with UNIFIL and with the Seabees for 15 days. We worked with NGOs also, cleaning the streets outside the port.

Outside the harbour, this is the result. The historical walls and historical houses - this is where we first faced something called cultural property. Inside the harbour we cleared, this is the outcome. The deconstruction of 19 hangers, 10,000 square metres each, as you see in the photo. All this was dismantled and stacked in the metal zone, and the rubbles and the other zone. This is the photo that shows before and after.

The CPP capability... the beginning. It all started at the MOFA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is where we had this idea, in collaboration with UNIFIL, to enter the MOFA for the second time, because the first time we entered to create a secure base just to pick out the files and deliver it to the authorities. We didn't have any awareness of the cultural property at this time.

In stage two, with the idea of UNIFIL and NGO Biladi, with the collaboration of the Blue Shield of course, we started protecting the heritage building. The first seminar on site, the first workshop on site. These are some photos that show the danger we were encountering and the risk we

were taking just to preserve the roof of the MOFA. Some construction details, all stacked and organised as you can see

Why CPP capability and not CPP unit? The reason why is to create a unit inside the Lebanese Armed Forces, whose only job description is to protect the CPP, the cultural property, all over the country, is really a big project and I'm pretty sure that there won't be authorisation for that because of the shortage in the personnel we have, and to create a unit, in itself, requires a lot of paperwork and authorisation and stuff like that. So, we had this idea to have the regiment as a CPP unit. And within its unit, we want to create a task force, an operation task force, to intervene anywhere in the country, as you will see on the next slide.

Our responsibility is only during the response, when we activate the response plan, and not before that and not after. And during the follow through, the training and the review and to update the disaster plan and stuff like that, that's what we're doing right now. All the tasks to do before and after the crisis in itself or the disaster itself is the responsibility of the DJ.

This is an expanded organisational chart, so you can see how we are connected. Inside the left, this is the army chief, this is the regiment commander lying underneath the G4 when in peacetime and the G3 during a disaster. This will give us agility and efficiency and a fast response.

As you can see, the CPP capabilities are throughout all the companies, the front liners, as we can see, and once we have any emergency, we will activate the operational Task Force and we will intervene anywhere in the country very fast, because we're really deployed all over the country. So, this is the idea we're implementing in the LAF, and it's based on experience because we already did it in the MOFA, and it was good, and it was efficient. So this is what we're working on.

During 2021, with the program Jouhouziya 21, we started the first training sessions at the Blu Radisson Hotel in Beirut, in collaboration with the DGA, and Blue Shield International, Blue Shield Lebanon, and it was organised by the Biladi NGO. This was continued with visits to the museums. After that, we passed the emergency response training on sites, actually four sites, Byblos, Baalbek, Tripoli and Saida, and it was organised by the Biladi NGO, in collaboration with the Smithsonian, and the Prince Clause. And we had on board the Red Cross, the Civil Defence and the DGA. The aim, the end state of this training, was to elaborate a response plan for every site, according to the scenarios we were organising there.

At the end, I would like to thank Biladi NGO, Blue Shield International, Blue Shield Lebanon, the Smithsonian Institute, the Prince Clause, and the DGA for the training we have had this past year and we're looking forward to further training.

And I'm ready for any question. Thank you.

Peter Stone: Youssef, thank you very much indeed for that presentation. I hope you can hang on for another 15 minutes or so for questions because we've got one of the groups that you have been working with talking next before we go to the questions if that's okay.

Youssef Haydar: You got it. No problem.

Peter Stone: Thank you very much. Excellent. What I will do just before Cori Wegener from the Smithsonian speaks. In that presentation, Youssef was talking about G4 and J4 and J3. And those are military designations for different parts of the military process and activity. So J4 is logistics and engineers, J3 is operations. And I find - and I'm sure this will come out in a little bit of the discussion - the response from Lebanon absolutely fascinating because most other parts of the world who have started developing CPP units have put them with what's usually called J9 or G9, which is civilian-military cooperation. But in Lebanon, with that real hands-on experience, taking it to the independent work regiment. I remember sitting with Youssef in Beirut, and him saying he really didn't think that the Lebanese army was going to be able to set up a CPP unit, and so I looked very sad, and he smiled and said but we are going to set up a capability, and that capability is the whole of my regiment and that's over 1000 men. So, that was probably catapulting the Lebanese military into one of the largest CPP capabilities in the world. So, I'm sure we'll come back to that but just as a bit of clarity.

22 - Session 2: Cori Wegener

Peter stone: So, waiting now as the last presentation in this first block, we've got Cori Wegener (hi Cori) from the Smithsonian, and ex Blue Shield, no, continuing Blue Shield... I'm going to be quiet now and let Cori speak. There you are.

Cori Wegener: Hi, yes, continuing Blue Shield, absolutely. Well, first of all, I want to congratulate Blue Shield International, and the entirety of the Blue Shield movement, all the National Committees, on not any anniversary, but a really important 25th anniversary for the Blue Shield movement as a whole. And it's something that I've really dedicated a lot of my career to, creating the US committee at the Blue Shield with colleagues, and I'm continuing now on the board. So, congratulations everyone on our longevity and the strong future that we have to look forward to.

So I'd like to talk a little bit today about the Smithsonian cultural rescue initiative, and the importance of partnerships and the programs that we have, and how we've been able to develop over the last 10 years or so with our program, because of strong partnerships and long lasting partnerships.

I'm going to just kind of go through and talk a little bit about our origins with the Haiti Cultural Recovery Project. I used to be a museum curator, and an Army soldier and a monuments officer for a long time in the US Army Reserve before I came to the Smithsonian, and I was president

of the Blue Shield in 2010, when the Haiti earthquake happened, and the Blue Shield US really wanted to assist our colleagues in Haiti in any way we could. Through the process of partnerships and coordination with US organisations like the Department of State and the Smithsonian, that's kind of how I met colleagues at the Smithsonian, and together with Blue Shield US and Smithsonian we created the Haiti Cultural Recovery Project in 2010. On the strength of that, we recognise that there really is a gap for emergency response for cultural heritage around the world that oftentimes gets left to the phase of recovery, rather than during response, and we recognise that you have to have the humanitarian response for people, but oftentimes culture got left behind and so the Smithsonian decided to go ahead and create a permanent capability at the Smithsonian. For those of you who might not be aware, the Smithsonian Institution is an organisation that has 19 museums in Washington DC and other places like New York, and we have research centres like the Tropical Research Institute in Panama and research labs around the world. And then we also have now the Cultural Rescue Initiative as one of our programs and our mission is to protect heritage threatened or impacted by disasters.

You see there are staff, and we work in kind of four areas, which is what I'd like to talk to you about, just a little example of each of these areas of recognition, resilience, research, and response, not necessarily in that order.

So, first of all, recognition and raising awareness. We think that this is an area where the Smithsonian really is involved in the Blue Shield movement, raising awareness about the protection of cultural property in armed conflict but also in other naturally caused types of disasters. We do this through small exhibitions, conferences and things of the like. Death of history is something we did back in 2015 to raise awareness amongst members of Congress here in the United States about the need to protect cultural property that was being destroyed by the ISIS groups.

We also do it through our membership. One of the results of the kind of raising awareness work with Congress is that they created a law here in the United States, called the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, and that act required organisations, and governmental organisations in the United States that have some involvement in international cultural heritage to work together, and it created a body called the Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee. In case you don't know, the United States does not have a Ministry or Department of Culture. And so this is how we work together and it's Department of State, Department of Defence, USAID, Department of Interior, the Smithsonian, the National Archives and several other organisations work together in this committee. It also has to do with issues of illicit traffic, the Hague Convention, and other cultural heritage treaties that the United States is party to.

Domestically, we work with FEMA, our Federal Emergency Management Agency. Together, the Smithsonian and FEMA co-chairs what's called the Heritage Emergency National Task Force. This is one of the ways that we work to raise awareness about disasters and, for example, we put out information ahead of hurricane season, we talk about the need for planning, but we're

also somewhat of a response organisation, and we're coordinating with all the different US government and non government organisations, for example, in response to the terrible tornadoes that we suffered just on Friday night and Saturday morning across six states in the United States.

With regard to response, just mentioning a few ones in recent memory. This is some of the work we did in Nepal, which was a partnership with ICCROM, and ICOMOS and several other organisations.

We've worked with partners in non government-controlled areas of Syria. This is an example of working with our colleagues, who have subsequently now created an organisation called SIMAT, that we still partner with today.

The Muslim Cultural Museum Rehabilitation is a partnership with the Mosul Museum, with the Louvre museum and the World Monuments Fund to do the rehabilitation of this museum. I'm going to mention a little bit more about that because I think it's important to what the Blue Shield is involved in. When we first intervened back in 2019, we treated the Mosul Museum like a cold case crime scene. Our team at the Smithsonian worked closely with the FBI art crime team to develop a methodology whereby we really had to carefully document the damage to the museum because we wanted to be sure not to miss critical evidence that might later be used in a prosecution for potential war crimes under the Hague Convention, or some other criminal judicial action. We very carefully developed this methodology, and we documented very carefully. Before we touched or lifted one object for salvage, we made sure we documented. We have more than 4500 photos inside and outside the museum and its environment. We have lots of videos, and we carefully collected evidence of the crime while we were also figuring out whether the museum was safe and stable to be rebuilt etc. We did a careful report for the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and now we're continuing on with the project, and the collections have been salvaged. The Louvre is working with colleagues on actual conservation treatment for the damaged objects, and we hope to see a fully recovered museum in the coming years.

Our research program has a lot to do with satellite mapping and cultural heritage inventories and just documentation, and that eventually has led to products like this Guide to Mosul Heritage, which we provided in Arabic and Kurdish and English for the coalition forces that went in to retake Mosul at the time, and then we subsequently did one regarding the retaking of Raqqa in Syria. As we're constantly gathering data and keeping track of cultural inventories around the world, we're able to then repurpose that information when it's needed for whatever partners request it. This was a project that the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative did with the US Committee of the Blue Shield and the University of Pennsylvania and several other organisations as a collaborative effort.

Right now, one of our newest partnerships is with the Virginia Museum of Natural History, in the creation of the cultural heritage monitoring lab. So we again are using satellite information and overlays, working with lots of different partners. In this instance, what I have is an example of a map that we created right after the most recent Haiti earthquake, to help guide damage

assessment teams, for example, in this case, in Les Cayes. This is going to be a continuing effort in the coming years and we have a lot of projects planned for this.

Another way that we forward research on cultural heritage are conferences. This was pretty much the last in-person event we were able to host at the Smithsonian right before Covid, and we had a number of speakers. You can watch all of this on the SCRI (Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative) YouTube channel.

And then, one of the most important things, I think. Somebody mentioned either this morning or in the conference yesterday about the importance of prevention; if we can prevent the damage to heritage to begin with, that's the real goal. We do a lot of training at the Smithsonian. Some of the programs in the past have included the First Aid for Cultural Heritage in times of Crisis with ICCROM and the Prince Clause Fund / CER.

Our domestic training program with FEMA and the Heritage Emergency National Task Force is called HEART, and we run those each year, except for last year we weren't able to and this year we had to do it pretty much online. But we're hoping to get back to our in-person training soon.

And then we do on-demand training. This is just one example, with our partners the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage. And my office also works closely with the Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute, and together we have done multiple emergency preparedness training for colleagues in Iraq over the years and we've done them on-demand in many places. Today you heard that we also provided via video on-demand training after the Beirut blast for colleagues in Lebanon.

We also have a Leadership for Cultural Heritage Stewards in Challenging Circumstances. I know it's a long name, we have to think about that, but that's a program that we do in collaboration with Cultural Emergency Response, and we've done three iterations, we had to do it online again, most recently, but if you're interested in such programs, keep an eye out on our website for next year's program.

And then the military training. This is very near and dear to my heart. It's something that Blue Shield US has been very heavily involved in over the years. The Smithsonian and Blue Shield have partnered on a number of military trainings. This is just one that we did at the National Museum of American History a few years ago, and we continue to work on it today. This is, just this year, a field exercise that we did, and I think Michael Delacruz showed a picture of that as well, a collaboration with the Smithsonian and with Blue Shield US on training civil affairs soldiers about awareness of cultural property protection issues. And so here I'm pretending to be an angry archaeologist.

Finally, this is an ongoing program that we have to train our cultural property protection colleagues that are required under the 1954 Hague Convention. The US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command is actively recruiting cultural heritage experts to come into the military and serve in that capacity and we're very proud to do so.

So, I will stop sharing, and that's all I have. Thank you very much, and happy anniversary.

Peter Stone: Cori, thank you very much indeed for that and really helpful and interesting. And it shows all of the synergies that we've got across so many of these organisations. The four presentations we've had so far, from Interpol, from the OSCE, from the Lebanese Armed Forces, and now from the Smithsonian, show the direction of travel that is there and is necessary, and all the work that is going on.

23 - Session 2, Part 1 - Q&A

Peter Stone: There are a couple of questions in the chat, both so far for Corrado from Interpol, so Corrado, I hope you're still there. Yes you are, thank you.

So the first one, a quick question from Lisa Mole, who found your presentation absolutely fascinating: Is there any chance that academics could get access to the database to assess damage?

Corrado Catesi: The database. We don't need that. First, thank you for the question. And thanks for giving me the possibility to clarify. The mobile application gives the opportunity of access to the Interpol stolen works of art database to check if an object that you want to buy in front of you was reported as stolen to Interpol. These are the two main activities, the object ID and the site card. These are two different activities to give you the opportunity to improve the inventory, thanks to object ID, and to report the damage to some cultural areas, thanks to the site card. These are only available to the users. It means that we don't have access, we don't give access to the Interpol database to store this information. If you want to send this information also to us, it is good, but that is not the priority. We created it for the police that are in rescue situations, rescue operations, and in those missions to give you the possibility to report on damages, to give you the opportunity to protect these areas, but the application does not give access to the database for these kinds of activities. Indeed, all object IDs and all site cards are not visible to Interpol, only by the user of the cellular phone where the application is downloaded. You are the only owners of the information.

Peter Stone: Okay, thank you. I hope that that answers your question, Lisa. If not, I can put the two of you together if you want to carry on the conversation.

The second question that is on the screen, and is also for Corrado, comes from Maria Luisa Russo, who at the moment is in Mali, so I hope your connection is working to hear this, Maria. The app is a very helpful tool indeed. The picture of items is crucial for the actual possibility of identifying items in case of theft or loss. Many international projects support digitisation of cultural heritage worldwide, for preservation, access, and valorisation processes. This leads to the creation of CP databases and websites, very rich, both in terms of images and in terms of

metadata. It would be a step forward, also against illicit trafficking, if those databases could be put in relation through an agreement amongst donors, institutions and Interpol. Is there any plan in this direction in the project 21 to 25 that you presented? And she apologises if you already mentioned that, but her internet connection was going in and out. So I hope she's there again to hear this. If not, again I can put the two of you in contact. But, Corrado.

Corrado Catesi: Thank you Peter. Thank you for these other questions. For the moment, we are not planning anything. For the moment, our main objectives are to give with the manual and the visual search the possibilities to all users to check against the Interpol database, and also to give immediately a tool to the law enforcement, to the general public, that they have to work and inventory object servers to try to fight the problem of the lack of inventories, and secondly to give a real tool to all people that will be in the field during a natural disaster. It was the first step that we moved forward and finally we have the mobile application live. The second step will be to join events or projects, so to think about projects will be next, but right now it is not included.

Peter Stone: Okay, thank you very much.

Florian Krejsa: Just quickly. Regarding databases, and I think this 21-25 is related to our project. I think this is a general problem that we worldwide have a huge amount of databases, but they're not compatible, and everybody's making their own cake, so to speak. So I think - and I don't have a solution to that and I don't have an approach to that - but I think that the goal in the future has to be to unify all those databases and therefore make it accessible for everybody and make it readable for everybody. I know Corrado was there when we had an event in Montenegro on creating databases. And I remember that the creator of the national database was working alone, and therefore was also the only person who had basically the qualification and everything set out and nobody else would understand this database, so if something happened to this particular person, the whole database would be lost. So I think the goal has to be in the future to unify all the databases and get one huge database worldwide for stolen and trafficked artefacts. But as I said, I don't have a solution to that, and I hope that we will still be alive to see that one day.

Corrado Catesi: If I can, Peter, there already exists an international database for certain objects, which is the Interpol one. The only thing is that the information has to be sent by police, by our national central bureau. This is the only difference. And the problem is that when they send information, they're not good quality photos and there is not enough information to be put in the international stolen works of art database. But it already exists. It is only a question to push for as much information as possible, indeed, if they can, selectivity second. The mobile application wants to change also, maybe a forward to send data to Interpol. Why? Because, you have to know, 60% of the objects normally looted at the national level (this is a statistic) stay at the national level; only 40% goes out of the border. Now, until now the nations have sent to us only a small fraction of this 40%. But today, with the mobile application, all people in the nation can check what the nation will never think to send to Interpol, because they think it's an object that can be stolen only at the national level. Now with the mobile application these objects can be searched by everyone at the national level. The mobile application wants to change the way

all objects should be sent to Interpol, not because we're Interpol, but because it's the only database. We have 22 databases worldwide. All databases are structured in totally different ways. Well, this is the way to overcome all possible problems for the stolen items. Thanks.

Peter Stone: Thank you. Yes, I think you put your finger on it at the end with your last phrase there for the stolen items. The next question is aimed at Cori but I think a number of people might want to contribute. And so the question is from Lynn Edwards: it's fascinating that the work of SCRI is both broad and deep in its scope, and I'm especially interested in the satellite monitoring projects in response to damage. There are a number of projects across academia and in practice, for example EAMENA in the UK, which helped to do work on monitoring and evaluation of cultural heritage damage. In what ways can we seek to improve coordination and the mutual strength between all of these projects? So, Cori, start off.

Cori Wegener: Yeah, I think that there's been in the past a notion that, unlike the databases of stolen objects, which probably do need to have one more comprehensive place to go, with satellite monitoring, it used to be a rarity, it was hard to get satellite imagery, etc. and now it's becoming more and more normalised. If you have a cell phone, you can figure out where you're standing on the planet with the latitude and longitude. Even Google Earth imagery is really good and yes, you have to pay for the really high res stuff (or be part of the government like the Smithsonian is, so we're able to get the government satellite imagery), but it's becoming so that almost anybody can do this kind of work from open source places. So, I don't see the different programs as being repetitive or duplicating efforts. I see it as we can compare data, and really be able to hone in on a particular situation. And it's science. If you have multiple sources to look at the data, you can refine it and work better. We do have conversations about this. As mentioned, lots of academic research centres do this kind of work and we've had discussions about particular cases around the world, so I think it's a good thing that we have multiple places to go to look at the satellite data and interpret it.

Peter Stone: Okay, thank you very much. One comment I'll put into that, as I said yesterday, is that one of the activities that the Blue Shield is involved in at the moment is trying to talk with NATO about a database that can be used by the military for identifying places not to target, in terms of a conflict area. And one of the difficulties we've had there is convincing some people within the military that some of the open access material is good enough to be used by their targeteers. And there are issues with even some of the high level open access material. The military are concerned that they don't give them precise enough information in GIS terms and GPS terms for that. So, there are still issues around that, but I think we need to work and continue pushing those boundaries.

And here we've got another question for Cori, but I also think that Youssef might have a view on this. The question is, as someone, Cori, who has served both in the heritage sector and also the military, what are some of the challenges that affect civil-military cooperation? Are there difficulties in communication or agreement on approach, due to the difference in the nature of the organisations? And Youssef, even though you essentially wear a uniform most of the time -

in fact, I think this is the first time in my life I've seen you not in a uniform - I think it would be a useful exercise just to get your view on that as well. But Cori first.

Cori Wegener: Yeah, so you have different missions, right? The military mission is to fight and win wars. And so they have to do it in a way that limits collateral damage to both people and to cultural heritage sites and critical infrastructure. So that's one obvious problem, but I think the biggest challenge that I can think of that we face as cultural heritage professionals working with the military, is probably the fact that their turnover rate of personnel is a lot faster than ours. And so, sometimes it feels like you just get a minister to figure out why this is important, or, even down at the tactical level, a colonel on the ground, that this is important, and they're gone and the next person comes in and you have to start all over again with that awareness raising. And that's why the Blue Shield is such an important organisation, because we're constantly there raising awareness about the treaty, constantly there insisting on military training for personnel. And normalising the idea, so that it's not a whole new concept to each new leader that comes in in uniform, because it's very similar to the Red Cross - everybody knows what that is, everybody knows you have to do Geneva Convention training - and we're slowly achieving that with the Blue Shield.

Peter Stone: Thank you. Youssef?.

Youssef Haydar: Yes. My opinion is a little bit different. We're not an expeditionary force. Lebanon is a deployed force, so we're always there on the ground. We don't need to make a task force, put it in the J9, for a mission outside the US. It's a different concept. Here we're deployed, and we're facing this on a daily basis. Lebanon is full of heritage buildings, and it's really rich with this, so, in contact with these monuments, in contact with this heritage, let's say buildings or museums or whatever, we can give a hand to the government, especially in these times. So that's why we have a different perspective. We don't have it like in the J9, in the J3 and the J4. This is my opinion.

Peter Stone: Yeah, no, thank you and you're quite right obviously that it's a difference in the way that the military is being used in a particular country that is going to influence how it can interact with the heritage sector.

Youssef Haydar: Let's imagine it that way. Imagine that we are an expeditionary force and already deployed. So, this is what's going on.

Peter Stone: Yeah, I take that. And again, as I said yesterday, for those of you who were here, the whole idea of the Blue Shield being the triangle with three points, those three points being the uniform sector, the heritage sector, and the humanitarian sector, we all start from different starting points, but I think we all have the same long term objective, which is the creation of those healthy, peaceful, stable, sustainable communities, because effectively, if we managed to get those, then we could all go home because that's the positive end result. I'm not suggesting unfortunately that we're all going to be able to go home anytime soon. But that's where we're

aiming; just because we start in different places, doesn't mean that we can't aim for that common goal at the end.

Marie Luisa just says thank you from Mali, she did hear all of that, so Corrado thank you for that. Patty Gerstenblith has a comment on creating databases of stolen objects. There needs to be awareness that, if the databases are publicly available, this may provide a roadmap to the market on "how to sell an object", rather than preventing illegal trafficking. I think that's probably aimed at you, Corrado.

Corrado Catesi: Thanks for the question of course, as usual in the beginning. We have 22 full international databases worldwide. These are not only structured in different ways, but also not all of them are publicly available with regard to the objects. It may be for different reasons, for ongoing investigations, for a lot of reasons, which are national decisions. And this is another reason why we have the Interpol database, because in the Interpol database in 2009 it was decided to give public visibility to all objects because everything is a police database with data given by the police. At the same time, all people can check before buying objects of art as requested by article 4 of the UNIDROIT Convention. It means that is another reason, because the nations should send to us as much information as possible, but we cannot force the nations to give public visibility to the data that is always police data. It means that they are not accessible to the general public. Thankfully, Interpol decided to make it free to put what you want to be public in our database, which is then their database because the Interpol database is a database of 195 member countries.

Peter Stone: Okay, thank you. I know we're technically out of time, but I'm going to steal a little bit of everybody's break time with just two final questions. The first one is aimed at Florian: in your presentation, you mentioned that art and artefacts are the world's third most trafficked commodity. How difficult is it to quantify the illicit trade in antiquities and estimate its size?

Florian Krejsa: To save everybody's time, it's not possible, and that's the answer. No, I'm just kidding, but it's really like we would need a crystal ball to really have a rough estimate and, as I said, my rough estimate in the presentation was 3.4 billion to 6.3 billion and the margin alone shows you that we don't have any idea. We have to think about factors like the dark web, we have to think about freeports, and we don't know what's going on there. We work together with the homeland security of the US and ICE, and they work on social media and look at what's being sold on Facebook and Instagram and whatnot. But this is just scratching the surface, as, once again, like dark web, Thor, Silk Road, and especially also working with WCO, what's actually stored in freeports and shipped from freeport to freeport, we don't have any idea and therefore estimating the actual size of the illicit trade is close to impossible. But, as Peter said, we start from different points, maybe we can reach the goal together and find a way to roughly estimate it, or better estimate it in the future.

Peter Stone: I think I think you're right. It's a forlorn hope that we're ever going to be able to put a precise figure on it, because essentially that would mean that all of those who deal in the illicit trade would have to be clean and explain how much they made from it each year, which is

something that probably isn't going to happen. I always remember a conversation I had now probably 10 years ago with an American general who was saying, "Why can't you guys find out a better figure?" And I explained some of the issues and he said, "Yeah, well, actually, from my point of view, even if the total sum of money brought in illegally through the trade into Afghanistan - " (he was talking about Afghanistan at the time) " - was 100,000 US dollars, that buys a lot of bullets to kill my troops, and I want to stop the trade now." And that's where we actually have to begin thinking.

Florian Krejsa: Just quickly to add something, because it also ties in with the last question to Corrado, for giving the criminals a roadmap how to sell, we have to be aware of the fact that they are always one step ahead of us and not the other way around.

Peter Stone: Yeah, and I think that answers JL's question as well about security in the database. So we've got one very specific and last question for Cori from Isber Sabrine: Thank you very much for all the presentations, I would like to ask Cori if they have any plans to support Nimrud in Iraq.

Cori Wegener: Yeah, hi Esper. I didn't talk about it because I was trying to keep to my time, but we've had a project with the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage at Nimrud for 4 years now already. We've been working with them on doing the salvage operation, we built a new warehouse on the Nimrud site for them to work with the recovery operations, and provided supplies and major heavy equipment for them to use there, so it's an ongoing process and it's going to take a long time.

Peter Stone: Okay, thank you with that. On that, it's just up to me to say thank you to Corrado, to Youssef, to Florian and to Corey for your presentations. Really interesting, really showing the range of partners that we have as possible, and that we must build those connections with, and continue, and build on your skills and your expertise. And again, as I said yesterday, start to learn some other people's languages, which is one of the barriers. I didn't understand 10 or 15 years ago what a force multiplier was, and I didn't understand why the army was always going to the theatre. But "in theatre" is what the military says, so you have to learn that language, so that we can begin to work together to achieve that end result.

24 - Session 2: Brig. Gen. Roberto Riccardi

Roberto Riccardi: Dear colleagues of the world of cultural heritage protection. It is an honour and a pleasure to be here with you, even if only with a recorded message. Unfortunately, due to previously scheduled appointments, I cannot be with you in real time, but the occasion is too important and the honour too great, not to take the chance to speak to such a distinguished partner.

First of all, let me congratulate the Blue Shield for this important achievement. 25 years might not seem a long time, but in cultural heritage protection, it really is. Unfortunately, this mission is not the first thing on the agenda for many countries, and many international organisations. But in the last few years, also thanks to the work of the Blue Shield, things are changing. We see more and more countries actively involved in cultural heritage protection, we see more and more law enforcement agencies involved, and we see more and more NGOs and common citizens, and even private companies, calling for better protection and stronger regulations. This is definitely a sign of hope.

When we started to walk this path, 32 years ago, we were alone. So we can really appreciate the presence of an NGO like Blue Shield at our side. And this is the aim of the Blue Shield: a network of committees of dedicated individuals across the world that is committed to the protection of the world's cultural property, and is concerned with the protection of cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible, in the event of armed conflict, natural or human-made disasters.

The Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage has already crossed paths with Blue Shield, and the cooperation has always been pleasant and fruitful, and I truly hope that the cooperation will continue and that in the future, our work will be more and more entwined. I'm sure, for instance, that we will work together in the very near future in Lebanon, in which Blue Shield have operated so well with the armed forces, thanks also to a very strong collaboration with UNIFIL.

We are going to work soon in Lebanon, not only with the armed forces, but also with the law enforcement agencies, because we truly are convinced that adding a police perspective to culture of property protection is a necessary act in order to achieve the comprehensive dimension that is necessary for a cross country issue like CPP. In this, we will need your support, and I know, Professor Stone, that some of my officers have already asked you for communications and support, in order to have some established working contacts in the field.

These 25 years are the first step of what I'm sure will be a brilliant story of engagement in protecting the cultural heritage of humankind. Thanks for what you've done so far, thanks for what you're doing, and thanks for your will to do more. Ad majora.

25 - Session 2: Ten. Col. Luigi Spadari

Peter Stone: Absolutely. Okay, thank you very much. Luigi, over to you.

Luigi Spadari: Thank you Peter, thank you, Emma, from my side, and congratulations on your 25th celebration ceremony. I think that my general said about Lebanon, where I was last October, and probably he will send me in the next year, January, February, so we can have a possibility to cooperate in this land.

Now, I'm going to introduce, if necessary, my command and our task force Blue Helmets of Culture. The Carabinieri was established in 1969. It was, and it is, the first police department in the world exclusively dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage. It means that we don't care about drugs, we don't care about weapons or whatever, we care about cultural heritage protection.

This is our structure on the ground. We have 17 units on the ground, from the north to the south, from Udine to Sicily. And as well we have in Rome the investigation department, which is three specialised sections: archaeology, antiquities and forgery & contemporary art. More or less, right now, we have 300 police officers. And what is important is that we are part of the Italian Ministry of Culture. It is important because we are Carabinieri, we are not experts, or archaeologists, or restorators. And so we need to cooperate with the specialists. And they meet us, the specialists that we need, and we are in the frame of the Ministry of Culture; we can have every kind of cooperation that we need.

Our link in the international organisations. We have an officer in UNESCO. We have my friend that you heard from before, Corrado Catesi, in Interpol - now he is the Director of the Works of Art Unit for Interpol, but in his soul he is a Carabinieri TPC officer. Now we have a colleague in Baghdad, where he was, inside the European Union Mission in Iraq. As well we have an officer in Europol, as part of their cultural heritage protection.

From the beginning, as I said, our most important task is to recover stolen or illegally exported cultural items. This is our principal task. This is our work. Carrying out these kinds of jobs, you can see in these lines the most relevant crimes that we are fighting every day. Art theft, of course, the traffic of archaeological items illegally excavated and illegally exported from Italy, and art forgery, and other kinds of illicit trade.

We are performing other kinds of activities. We are monitoring on a daily basis archaeological sites and we are checking the art market, not only the art shops that we have in Italy on the ground with our units, but as well the internet art market, that now, from my point of view, is the largest market that you can find around the world, legal and illegal.

Here is an example of aerial monitoring by air with drones. And sometimes my colleagues are able to use horses in some specific areas that are not available by car. As well, we are monitoring the underwater archaeological areas because for us other archaeological sites underground are important, as well.

Another example of activities is training programs. We have been performing training activities in favour of [?] forces, or armed forces, of other countries since 2002. We started in Kosovo - the Carabinieri started in Kosovo - and after in Iraq, after Saddam fell. The first course for the Iraqi police was carried out in Oman, outside Iraq, because in Iraq at this time the situation was not very calm.

Some examples of the countries that ask us for training activities. You can see there are countries from every part of the world.

Database, database. The official international database is, of course, the Interpol Stolen Works of Art Database. And I think - my friend Corrado knows that I think this way - the Interpol database, from my point of view, has only one big problem. But it is not an Interpol problem. The problem is that every member country must understand that they need to collect information about art crimes at the local level and have to share all the information with Interpol. Interpol is not receiving information at a sufficient level. This is the problem over there. But an international base already exists - the Interpol base.

But as Corrado said, there are national bases around the world. This is the database we have been using in the Carabinieri since 1980. We have database information for more than 1 200 000 stolen objects. The second largest national database in the world, just to give you an idea, is the French database with information on only 110 000 stolen objects. The Interpol database has, I think, information on around 55 000 stolen objects. But the problem is not Interpol. The Interpol database, now it is up, gives us all the tools, but if the member countries of Interpol don't understand that sharing information is important - as it is the same information - the database is not enough to support us.

In 52 years of activity, this is what my commander has done. We were able to recover more than three million cultural items in Italy as well as around the world. In this picture, you can see some masterpieces that we recovered in the past, from Raphael to Picasso to others. Only last year, we recovered more than 500 000 stolen items.

We know that the internet today is the most important market. You can find every kind of market on it. On a daily basis, my unit is checking the internet market, the websites of auction houses or the websites of electronic markets like Ebay or whatever, and we compare the image of the items that they are selling with the images that we have in our database. In this picture you can see my guy who is checking. Part of the screen is dedicated to the internet and the other part to our database. In the last year, we checked more than 34 000 objects and we started to recover more than 12 000 of them.

There is a statistic about the international art market - the legal art market. In the last year, in 2020, it was estimated to have made around 56 billion dollars, but it decreased with respect to the year before. In 2019, it was more than 60 billion dollars. But at the same time, the art market on the internet increased very much. It had about 12 billion dollars in 2020, and 6 billion dollars in 2019. And it is an illegal market, but we have to compare the legal market with the illegal market, because in every situation that there is money, so much money, criminal organisations are surely working.

And now the Italian Task Force, Blue Helmets of Culture, BHC. Starting in 2015, UNESCO launched the campaign Unite4Heritage, with which it wanted to push into the light the situation that was happening in this period. If you remember, in 2015, all the media in the world showed

us images of the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq. UNESCO launched this campaign to underline this bad situation of cultural heritage, but as well UNESCO suggested to all the member countries to create a task force ready to intervene just in case the cultural heritage is endangered.

In 2016, there was this historical agreement between UNESCO and the Italian government. And then on the 16th of February, the Italian Task Force was officially introduced at an international level. I have been one of the senior officers of the task force from the beginning. Our task force is composed of Carabinieri and a civilian aspect, our Ministry of Culture.

I said, if you want to do something in this field, we cannot think, we Carabinieri, that we are excellent in the art of archaeology. We are Carabinieri, our experience is to recover the objects, but the experts are the art experts. And so the task force, under the umbrella of the Italian Ministry of Culture is composed of military souls, the Carabinieri, and civilian souls, experts of the Ministry of Culture.

When we can operate. Of course in Italy we don't need any kind of international organisation. It's enough that the Ministry of Culture and our commander say the order and the task force that will be on the ground. And in case of a natural disaster, earthquakes or other kinds of disaster. And outside of Italy, abroad, we can operate as well. And we operated in the last period in Croatia, in Lebanon, in Mexico, in Albania, but outside Italy we need an organisation. And it can be provided upon UNESCO's invitation (so we have the umbrella of the United Nations), or by bilateral agreement by states. Like what happened for Lebanon and Croatia.

As well, we can operate and we are operating, in the frame of peacekeeping missions, and in pre and post conflict areas like Iraq. Our task force doesn't want to replace the local authorities, because they are in charge of this, they are the masters in their country, but we want only to share our experience - we have 52 years of experience, but we want to share our experience and support them. How? Improving security measures to limit the risk of cultural heritage damage; and protecting, of course, recovering, and putting in security for cultural items; and as well it's very important to train the local police and army forces. These are what today the task force can do on the ground..

The first step for us was in 2016 after the establishment of our task force. In August, we had in the centre of Italy some dramatic earthquakes. Hundreds and hundreds of people died. And after the first few days of the earthquakes (you can see some images on this slide) it seems like our area has had a bomb attack. It is very very terrible to see this situation.

What we did. First of all we carried out an inspection of the cultural sites, museums, but in this area in Italy generally, and specifically in this area, a lot of churches. Amatrice alone (Amatrice was the village that was totally destroyed by earthquakes) had 100 churches inside the area of the village.

So, the first step is shown. Now, we can use drones before we enter the building to see the situation of the cultural items inside the building. And after we pass, we try to recover the cultural items under the crashing buildings, and after to bring them to the secure storage. During the earthquakes we recovered more than 30 000 items. You get see some images here.

Carabinieri TPC in crisis areas. Before the task force of 2016, but before the Carabinieri was deployed, as well in crisis areas We started in 2002 in Kosovo and after 2003 to 2006 in Iraq in the frame of an ancient Babylon operation. In this case, we had two officers in Baghdad who supported the future of the Iraqi National Archaeological Museum to check what was stolen in this museum.

They didn't have no idea about what was stolen, but they had no idea that the information was and is important if we want to try to recover them. Our guys were able to gather information about 3700 items that were stolen from the museum, and part of them now we are recovering around the world.

Iraq again. From 2016 to 2020, we were here, I was here, in the frame of an international cooperation against ISIS (the frame of interest of the operation) - it was a military operation. The advantage for our ministry, for our authorities, is that they can deploy the Carabinieri TPC as military, as soldiers, in the frame of a military mission, but as well, they can deploy the Carabinieri TPC in a civilian mission, like we did in March 2018 in Mexico after the earthquake and in January 2020 in Albania for the same reason, and in Beirut. I was in Beirut in October 2020 after the terrible explosions that they had in their port. And the last mission was in January of this year in Croatia, I was in Croatia with my guys after the earthquake..

What do we do in a civilian mission? We are talking about a fact-finding mission. We take a look, we check the ground, the situation of archaeological sites and outside and we check the situation of movable items, cultural items, and at the end, we carry out a report, an assessment, that we present to the local authorities. In this case we are talking with the Ministry of Culture of Croatia. And so they can have the situation in their country from our point of view. And we suggest to them what they can ask of Italy, of the task force, for the next mission, because the first mission is usually composed of three, four, not more than five people because, as I said, these are fact-finding missions. But the second mission, according to what the country needs in this field, we can put on the ground many more people.

This is a short clip about Lebanon, about Beirut where I was in 2020, and where I will be. And sure, it will be my pleasure and honour to cooperate with the Blue Shield, which I know is very very dedicated, and is working very hard in Lebanon in agreement with UNIFIL and with the local armed forces.

These are what we found in October. You know there is a part of Beirut, the suq [?] zone, where there are a lot of historical buildings. All of them are destroyed or severely damaged. And the situation is not so easy for the people of the directorate of antiquities of Lebanon. But we hope that with the support of all the international organisations, starting with Blue Shield, our task

force, UN and others, they can try to solve the problem. It is what we enable, you know. He was explaining to me how the two explosions were and they were terrible.

And here is two minutes of video clip of our activities in Croatia. In Croatia, they had terrible earthquakes. The last hit was in December 2020. And we were especially in Petrinja. Petrinja is a little village 30 kilometres away from Zagabria. The village is totally damaged and I think that 8 or 10 people died in these earthquakes. Here you can see the task force's action. Inside this church, the church was utterly destroyed. There are nine icons on the table. And I asked this: sorry but why don't you take this and carry out these icons? During the night, everyone can go inside and try to steal them. Yes, but we are not able to operate in this condition. And so for this specific church, near Petrinja, we recovered these kinds of icons.

I think that is my last slide. Again, thanks to Peter, thanks Professor, thanks Emma, and see you in Lebanon.

Peter Stone: Thank you, Luigi, thank you very much indeed for that discussion of the work of the TPC. And please pass on my regards to General Riccardi for his presentation as well, that was very kind.

Luigi Spadari: I will do, sure.

Peter Stone: Thank you very much.

26 - Session 2: Tess Davis

Peter Stone: Okay, so we move now on to our last two presentations, and the first one of those is from somebody I've known for a long time but actually only met about a month ago face to face: Tess Davis of the Antiquities Coalition. So Tess, it's lovely to see you again, albeit back on zoom and, over to you.

Tess Davis: Great. Well, good morning and good afternoon, depending on where you are located. Again, my name is Tess Davis and I'm the executive director of the Antiquities Coalition and on behalf of our organisation, sincere congratulations on this landmark anniversary and we are so grateful to you for the important work you're doing to protect cultural heritage in crisis.

For those of you who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting the Antiquities Coalition, we are a not-for-profit organisation and think tank dedicated to combating the illicit trade in art and artefacts, where business leaders, former government officials, archaeologists, lawyers and others who recognise that cultural crimes are a threat to both our shared heritage and our global security and this mission. We are honoured to join forces with a wide range of partners, including the United Nations, foreign governments, the US government, law enforcement

agencies here and overseas, and groups like the Blue Shield who are dedicated to safeguarding cultural heritage under threat.

So, given how complementary our missions are, I'm sure many, if not most, of you joining today have been asked a question we receive often as well and that is: in the face of war or natural disaster, how can we justify protecting cultural heritage? As if it were a choice between that and people, which of course it isn't, but I've heard that question a lot. Although I should say, I've never heard it from those who are impacted most by crisis.

Indeed, as some of you may know, I'm a proud resident of New Orleans and most people I know lost something to Hurricane Katrina here. Many lost everything and that was 16 years ago now and still to this day what hurts the most is not the loss of their houses, or their cars, or their jobs, but the baby pictures, their parents' wedding album or their grandparents' recipe book or military uniforms and they would give everything, anything, to have those things back, their family heritage.

Of course, the cultural heritage of the wider Gulf Coast was battered, but survived, due to the work of so many, including the Smithsonian, which was down here after the fact. But a hurricane plays out over a day, along a large but finite track, and when it comes to conflict, for example in Yemen, Syria, or Ethiopia today, or a generation ago in Cambodia, where I did much of my work before joining the Antiquities Coalition, these cultural losses are not restricted to families; they're magnified across entire countries and sometimes across entire peoples.

At the Antiquities Coalition, as at the Blue Shield, a key part of our mission is supporting these communities in crisis. And I can say that our colleagues who have suffered so greatly in these situations have always stressed, time and again, that it's when you're faced with losing everything that makes you who you are. That's when heritage matters more, not when it matters less. It's quite the opposite. And that lesson has certainly always stuck with me. And it's one of the reasons why, at the Antiquities Coalition, again we're so grateful for the work that the Blue Shield does and are so proud to be a supporter of your organisation and partner.

Of course, culture has always been used as a weapon of war. However, today it's also a criminal, terrorist, and insurgent financing tool. But complicating the issue is that many of the same groups that are financing their operations through an illicit antiquities trade are also targeting cultural, historic, and religious sites for destruction.

Of course, it's critical to remember that these attacks against heritage are meant, first and foremost, as attacks against people. After all, once you destroy all that a people hold sacred, the things that matter most to them, the next step is so often to destroy the people themselves, which is why cultural crimes are atrocity crimes in and of themselves, but why they're also warning signs of worse atrocities to come.

Of course, both cultural destruction and looting are prohibited and even criminalised by the general provisions of international humanitarian law dealing with civilian property, and that

includes the law of Geneva, the law of the Hague and customary international law. The 1954 Hague Convention discussed so often today and its two protocols, but also the 1998 Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court, reinforced these earlier protections with specific provisions on cultural property.

To get back to the Blue Shield, over the last year and a half, we've been very honoured to partner with the Blue Shield in working to keep cultural heritage on the agenda of the International Criminal Court, as well as serve as an ongoing resource for the court's work. Last year, with the Blue Shield and the not-for-profit organisation Genocide Watch, we challenged the ruling that we feared had the potential to weaken the protections that international law guaranteed civilian property, including cultural property, while we fear it also risking undermining ongoing and future cases against those who would seek to intentionally destroy cultural heritage. We did this by submitting an anarchist brief to the court, challenging the narrowly restricted nature of a recent interpretation made by one of its trial chambers in the case of *Prosecutor vs Bosco Ntaganda*. Our analysis sought to answer what sounds like it should be a basic question: what is an attack against cultural heritage under international criminal law? But of course, it was far from it. In July of 2019, the ICC's Trial Chamber had convicted Ntaganda, who was a leader in a Congolese rebel group, of 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. And while this case didn't make as many headlines as some of the other prosecutions, it was actually the highest amount of charges in any case to reach the judgement stage before the court. According to the Trial Chamber, Ntaganda held individual criminal responsibility for his acts committed in the early 2000s and he was sentenced to 30 years in prison. And while this was the longest sentence ever handed down by the ICC, the prosecution felt that some of his criminal acts had gone unaccounted for, including the destruction of a church and hospital, and it thus appealed on the grounds that the initial court had overlooked these incidents, because of when they had taken place, that is after the initial assault, and thus had felt that they didn't meet the court's definition of attack. And in our brief with the Blue Shield, we argued that if attacks were so limited, it would create this gap in time following active combat, in which cultural, medical, and religious objects would lose their protection, and also that those who destroyed such objects would become immune from prosecution. This March, the appeals chamber issued its judgement on the Ntaganda case, which unfortunately, in our eyes at least, rejected the prosecutor's appeal on a 4-1 decision. Now, the one that is the dissent actually used our brief in support of his position. However, I do want to stress that despite our disagreement with the ruling, this doesn't mean the subject is now closed, because while the majority agreed to reject the appeal, they did so for very different reasons, and, as a result, in the words of one scholar, strikingly there was a stalemate between the judges and their opinions. So, while this appeal was rejected, there is still not a consensus on this legal issue we argued. And this issue is likely to come up again, and when it does, we hope and expect our brief will be of assistance.

And another example of our work together, also last spring we were honoured to work with the Blue Shield on submitting comments to the ICC on their newly developed draft policy on cultural heritage. I have to commend the ICC for attempting this effort to begin with; it's hugely important that they focus on this issue and also develop the expertise internally to do it. This document is

an example of the work they're doing on this front. It was the first of its kind, published in March by the Office of the Prosecutor, who requested comments from interested scholars and practitioners and our Coalition, which included both individuals and institutions with extensive experience in cultural heritage law and international criminal law and international humanitarian law. We analysed the current policy and developed a series of recommendations for strengthening it, and also expressed our support for this work and our availability to assist the court going forward. The final policy was published on June 14 of this year. I encourage everyone to check it out if you're interested, and hopefully it will help to guide the court's work in the future.

Beyond our work with the Blue Shield on the ICC, more recently, we've also been honoured to partner on a recent policy brief through the Antiquities Coalition's Think Tank. We created the think tank in 2016 to serve as a resource to policymakers to help them strengthen their understanding of the challenges facing our shared heritage, but more importantly to help them, hopefully, develop solutions to better protect them. In 2018, it was honoured as one of the world's best new think tanks from the prestigious global go to think tank index published by the University of Pennsylvania. And on October 21st of this year, the chair of the UK committee of the Blue Shield released a policy brief through the AC Think Tank that examines the UK's recent decision to repeal the EU regulation on the introduction and import of cultural goods in Great Britain. Miss Fionnuala Rogers, in addition to her work with the Blue Shield, of course, is founder and director of Campus Art Law, and an overall leader in cultural property law, so we were so thrilled to be able to work with her on this. In her brief, she argued very convincingly that this repeal creates a gateway to Europe for illicit traffic through Northern Ireland, where the regulation still applies, and that the UK must take immediate steps to mitigate this risk. We've been thrilled that Miss Rogers' argument has really struck a chord. It has reached a large audience; the art newspaper published an article on the brief in early November and her perspective was also highlighted by the Telegraph, in an analysis of the fate of the illicit trade in the UK, really connecting this issue to a more mainstream audience. We also know that there are other media outlets that are continuing to be interested and there should be future articles and even interviews to come. So, all of you please stay tuned for that.

But in summary, again, these are just three examples of the work we've been able to do together and we very much hope to continue as the Blue Shield's voice is hugely important in keeping this issue on the agenda of those who seek to prevent and also seek to help individuals and even again entire countries recover from conflict. We're hugely honoured to work with you. Again, a very sincere congratulations on this landmark anniversary and your work is making a huge difference.

Thank you.

Peter Stone: Thank you very much indeed for that. Thank you for those kind words, reciprocated back to you of course from the work that the Antiquities Coalition does.

27 - Session 2: Col. Giuseppe De Magistris

Giuseppe De Magistris: Good day. And happy celebration of your 25th anniversary. It is indeed a privilege for me today, showcasing what is NATO's Stability Policing in such an important setting.

First, let's say whether or not we are missing an opportunity. You will find it a little bit weird to know that stability policing has been deployed for more than 22 years and yet NATO has not equipped itself with the strategic concept on the subject matter, yet.

Notwithstanding this, Stability Policing assets have been providing their support for more than two decades and they are now even part of NATO exercises, and they are included in the NATO defence planning process.

But what about the situation on the ground when Stability Policing assets are deployed?

It said, now fragile states. Think about a tsunami, which wipes away everything. Think about a tsunami, which wipes away even police stations. The same applies in a war-torn country, where local police usually do not exist, or are biased. They are corrupted, or they have a negative orientation towards one of the parties at war. This was the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first deployment of the Multinational Specialised Unit, the forefather of Stability Policing. From one side, you had NATO, which had a 60 000+ strong force, with artillery pieces, Air Force... whatever could be deployed was there, to show the force, the mighty force of NATO. On the other side, the United Nations were not capable of discharging police duties. In fact, the United Nations international police task force was composed of unarmed policemen scattered all over the country (mostly individually) with a language barrier problem, without equipment, without proper communication devices, and, as I mentioned, with great difficulty communicating with their counterparts, communicating with those they were supposed to mentor, maybe even oversee.

And then there was a gap. The security gap, which we mentioned. A grey area where the local police were not capable of intervening, or maybe they were not willing, and in the meantime they were not capable of filling.

So, after the Dayton agreement, and in the years to come, it took a while for the international community to understand how to implement the decisions of the Dayton agreement. So what? The international community needed a fist, a powerful police fist, to implement these decisions. So, after the Bonn conference, the Peace Implementation Council was created. And then it was equipped with this unit, the Multinational Specialised Unit, which NATO put at the disposal of the international community.

This unit, the forefather of Stability Policing, is somehow the epitome of interoperability because it is a regiment composed of police forces but also military forces, capable of carrying out crowd control operations, presence patrols, law enforcement duties. They could discharge any kind of

duties provided that their mandate would allow them to do so. This unit was then deployed even in Albania, and then in Kosovo, and then Iraq. And it was praised by the international community, and specifically it was even mentioned in the United Nation Brahimi report, which was the first one to address the issue of the security gap, the void which is caused by war, which is not filled by the local police. The same applies to the Chilcot report, which you may be familiar with, the inquiry carried out by the United Kingdom parliament on the mission in Iraq. And then the same applies to the SIGAR as well, i.e., the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, and to the SIGIR, relevant to the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

So, something which is really useful, which experience on the ground proved very useful, and something which was praised, even in the beginning, by high-level officials, both through the United Nations and then NATO. Sir Paddy Ashdown said that the rule of law should have been the first priority for the international community, rather than the elections. And then he was echoed by the first commanding general of the mission in Kosovo, Sir General Mike Jackson, who said that the Multinational Specialised Unit operatives have a policeman's mind in the body of a soldier.

But what is Stability Policing? We are talking about police-related activities, aimed at restoring or upholding public order, security and the rule of law to protect human rights and to support, or even temporarily replace, the indigenous police forces, which, as I mentioned, are unable or unwilling to perform their duties in a war-torn country. So, by nature, Stability Policing is hybrid, both civilian and military. So, we are part of the civil-military interaction, we are focused on civilians and law enforcement agencies, but we are very flexible too, capable of addressing any kind of menace to human security. I mean, children in conflict, sex- and gender-based violence, protection of civilians, building integrity, cultural property protection, trafficking human beings, you name it; whatever doesn't fall within the military instrument of power is human security. And then, you know, it is relevant to the current menace which the international community is facing.

So this is the picture of the policing gap, which I was talking about. The gap between the actual expectation of the local population and what the local police can do instead. So, technically speaking, there is a gap between what the police are able to do in a theatre of operation in a war-torn country or a fragile state and what they should do.

And as you can see, the field of Stability Policing moves from a replacement mission in the beginning, where the local police are not capable of doing anything, to just reinforcing on the job. So this is why we say that Stability Policing assets bridge this gap, addressing crime, any kind of crime, organised crime, insurgency, terrorism, the violation of human rights, across the full spectrum of operations.

So, in a nutshell, these are the key takeaways. Stability Policing bridges this gap, this security gap, by bringing a police dimension into military operations, because current conflicts, past conflicts, and future ones are very complex to articulate. The war/crime overlap is really blurred:

this requires the need to stabilise a country before disengaging. Recent history (i.e., Afghanistan) shows that this is very true.

Who can perform Stability Policing? Any kind of force. The first logical choices are these interoperable forces, like the Carabinieri, i.e., a police force with military status, an organisation capable to discharge any kind of civilian police duties but still military by nature. This is why I spoke about interoperability: because we are interoperable with the military instrument of power. We are military by nature, but even other civil and military actors can be part of this open club. How do we do it? We leverage on a wide experience of operations across the world, throughout the full spectrum of operations with a specific focus on local police and local law enforcement, so don't get confused with military police. Military police are actors in NATO scenarios, designated to take care of the forces, not of the population. If they discharge stability policing duties, they are part of the Stability Policing "open club".

So, this is why the Stability Policing Centre of Excellence was created six years ago, to promote the subject matter within our unique hub of international Stability Policing in Vicenza, where you can find personnel from 11 different countries.¹¹ They are in the barracks depicted in the slide. The compound hosts three different entities that deal with Stability Policing: the CoESPU, Centre of Excellence for Stability Policing Unit, run by the Carabinieri, with a supporting grant from the United States, so it is Italy money and US money. Then the European Gendarmerie Force appears on the left-hand side of this slide: they work for the European Union mainly, while CoESPU works for the United Nations, and then the Centre of Excellence for Stability Policing. That's it.

But let's go a little bit now deeper on the subject matter, and thanks again for the great opportunity you gave me to showcase Stability Policing. First, the cultural property threats range from force majeure, earthquakes, floods, to vandalism, or to organised crime, and transnational organised crime, or to terrorism. And then you have a means to fund irregular activities. And then we have these kinds of threats as well, because they first pretended to destroy the statues, and then we found these heads in the black market. Then the threat changed. Unrestricted warfare (the so-called Gerasimov Doctrine), cyber, the activity carried out by Daesh do threaten our stability back in our countries. There is even a threat against cultural property.

So what can we do in support? We have been striving to make everybody understand that cultural property protection is not to be a burden; it can be just a programme to be put in our activities on the ground. When we say no, we cannot put this site on the strike list, and that's it. It's not only a problem of war crimes because according to the Security Council resolution on the matter, and according to NATO regulations (and there is a Bi-Strategic Command Directive on the subject matter, which is unfortunately classified), infringing the law on cultural property is a war crime, but is it only this program? It is only a program about logistics because we count the camp in a site which is a UNESCO heritage site, or what? Or can we do something more? For the time being, there is really little mention in NATO, but even under other agencies, about cultural problems. The only key milestone is the United Nations Security Council resolution 2347

(2017), but then what? NATO is to be equipped with something more, with something stronger. As I mentioned, the policy is yet to be drafted.

So from our side, from the Stability Policing perspective, we have been doing our utmost to improve our work strand, main work strands, on Stability Policing. One is the revision of the main publication on the subject matter; then in comes the draft of the tactical publication on Stability Policing, as the last line reads.

But then who can do something about Stability Policing? Several tasks are relevant to Stability Policing and several of them are relevant to cultural property protection. As I said, it's an open club. An open club means that everybody can be part of this club and can contribute to these kinds of activities. Those which are highlighted in green are very relevant to cultural property protection. So, let's go one by one and see what we can do. And all of these activities are relevant to policing activity in a theatre of operation. The difference being, for the actors who can perform these activities, is to be just trained and equipped to do something, or trained, but even with the policing skills and equipped to do something, or really high level trained and equipped and with a very good mindset on Stability Policing, to do something. It's simple like that. But once again, it's an open club, where everybody can provide their support, from the Carabinieri-like (or Gendarmerie-like) forces, police forces with military status organisations, as I mentioned, to military police, or the military, or even civilians, depending on the situation on the ground.

But what's next? How can we support CPP? Since NATO focuses on warfighting, policing can provide a different means of approaching our city warfare by legal targeting through policing activity. This helps to win the battle of narratives. And then the policy. We don't have a policy in NATO yet. So we do need to do something more. And your support is paramount, the other stakeholders' support, the same stakeholders that we gathered in Vicenza two weeks ago. I believe that we can make the difference by creating the NATO Stability Policing in CPP Network which I mentioned in the margins of last November conference. Once again, Stability Policing, focusing on the local populace, through its policing means, contributes to the intelligence cycle. And then, we must do more on paper. And my point is, can NATO afford not to invest in cultural property protection? Does it not revolve against the Alliance, only because we can't run the risk of losing the battle of narratives?

We have been doing something on this. For sure, the conference was an achievement, but it was a first step. But most importantly, I believe that being here with you today, on your 25th anniversary, speaks volumes. And our federated approach can start really today, all together. So, let's see how we can do more, but we can do more all together. Only by moving forward in unison will we be able to make the difference. This concludes my briefing. And I do thank you for whatever you have done and whatever you will do to support us in this endeavour. Thank you so much.

28 - Session 2: Sanne Letschert

Peter Stone: I'm very pleased that the last person to speak is Sanne Letschert, the head of the Cultural Emergency Response group from... Well, I'll let Letschert say, sorry, I'll let Sanne say where she is from and what the relationship with Prince Claus is at the moment.

So, Sanne, thank you very much for waiting, and over to you.

Sanne Letschert: Thank you, Peter, and thank you so much for having us today. First of all, of course, congratulations on the 25th anniversary. We're very proud to have been a partner for a very long time already. And just to introduce myself to the rest, my name is Sanne Letschert, I'm head of the Cultural Emergency Response program of the Prince Claus Fund. That is going to change in a bit, which I will share with you in my presentation.

And let me first also start by thanking Blue Shield for actually existing, because without them, Cultural Emergency Response would actually not be here at all. Blue Shield International is actually one of the founding partners of our program. It was founded in 2003, together with the Prince Claus Fund for culture and development, actually in direct response to the blowing up of the Bamiyan Buddhas at the time and the looting of the Iraqi Museum. Both organisations really saw a need to establish an organisation which would have the implementing and action power to actually protect culture in crisis situations. And at the time, Blue Shield and the Prince Claus Fund were very logical partners by combining expertise and the networks that were already in place.

In honour of the 25th anniversary, I kind of dug into our archives, and the photo material I found is not very impressive, but I was able to find what the first projects were that we supported together. And it's nice to start in that way because we very much built on what we've done in the past 20 years to be where we are now and where we're heading in the future. Among the first projects we supported, the very first one was actually the recovery and basic needs of a central library of the University of Baghdad in 2003, after there were fires and it was looted during the Iraqi war. We also stabilised the mosques of Al Hoceima in Morocco, after a big earthquake, and also the Citadel of Bam in Iran in 2003. We helped with the stabilisation and the prevention of further damage in the direct aftermath of the earthquake.

As I said, it's still very much our focus up until today. In the past 20 years, we've grown into an organisation which is specifically focused on first aid to cultural heritage under threats both in response to conflict, but also disaster situations. And we always do that in direct collaboration with local communities on the ground and we provide fast and flexible financial support and expertise if needed. For all those partners to either stabilise, evacuate, document heritage that is acutely under threat.

And you're actually finding us at an interesting moment in time and in our existence because we are becoming an independent organisation, independent from the Prince Claus Fund, next year. We were at the time by Blue Shield and the Prince Claus Fund established actually to be an

independent organisation, but for mostly financial reasons we were then assimilated by the Prince Claus Fund and 20 years ago the field was maybe not yet ready for an independent organisation focusing specifically on the protection of culture in crisis, where of course (and that's what we have seen also during the presentations of yesterday and today), this field has grown and matured and professionalised enormously - as has CER as a program.

So we've really grown over the past 20 years and we've become an expert in the field. We've been able to build strong local networks, but also set up strong international partnerships, and we really see the need to scale up and increase our impacts, also on the ground, because there is still an increasing need for the work for heritage protection. And I think the sense of urgency for this type of work is something we at least present in this virtual space all share. And that's with the Cultural Emergency Response strongly embedded in the belief that culture is a basic need.

So, through our programming, we're not just merely trying to preserve or protect cultural heritage, now we're trying to offer a certain continuity to culture after crisis, because we believe that the value of heritage actually goes beyond what the eye can see, what is tangible, but it really affects people, their identities, their sense of belonging. So we really aim to offer cultural continuity after conflict and disaster.

The way we do that is divided into four different programs actually, which I would like to briefly tell you something about, because the nice thing is to see that over the years we've also been really working very closely with the whole Blue Shield movement actually, from an international level, but mostly with a lot of actors on the ground who are closely involved with either Blue Shield committees, have done trainings, or are in any other way related to the Blue Shield movement. And those are actually the people we're trying to strengthen and support as much as we can.

The core of a program is really to provide first aid to culture worldwide, but we also believe that there is a strong need to strengthen the infrastructure that is needed to actually provide that type of support. One of the things that we do is have an elaborate, and quite advanced, emergency mechanism, which allows us to respond very quickly after a disaster. We actively monitor crisis situations, we scout for projects, and we proactively build networks in regions where we do not have that and really try to upkeep them in disaster/conflict regions, so we actually have the infrastructure in place, in case we need to respond quickly. And we offer very flexible support, so we think that it's important to have the local partners in the lead of determining the approach, as well as priority. I want to highlight this example because it's been mentioned already a couple of times. It's a good example of a collaboration between Blue Shield International and national committees of Blue Shield and very strong local partners who've been trained before, as well as of course a civil society in a civil protection collaboration, which was safeguarding of cultural heritage in Beirut after the blast last year. We were able to work together and support damage assessment and first aid that was conducted by Blue Shield, but we were also successful in coordinating a pooled fund of six different international heritage funding agencies, to provide rapid relief to independent cultural organisations, to provide first aid

and prevent further damage to their spaces, collections, exhibition spaces, workshops, etc., because we see that this is an important part of offering cultural continuity, where cultural practitioners and heritage sites and heritage experts are all part of the same cultural ecosystem actually and help keep each other up and keep each other alive.

Something else we are really focusing on is strengthening the local capacity. We really aim to work towards a stronger and more inclusive heritage protection sector, so we actively try to shift the power to the global south, to those closer to the heritage, to the crises and communities. And we focus those activities specifically in the most vulnerable regions and on heritage sites that are often overlooked, not necessarily the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, but heritage sites that are of local value and local importance and that do not often have access to funding possibilities.

As Cori Wegener of the Smithsonian already mentioned, we have some training initiatives that we are developing together to create that capacity, and we're also setting up a network of regional hubs for Cultural Emergency Response. We really aim to decentralise. This is something new we're trying out, we're piloting this, but we really believe that this could be the future of the heritage protection centre, where you have regional hubs, which are go-to experts in disaster- or conflict-prone regions, which already have the network, the mechanism, a deployable team of experts in place that are allowed to respond quickly if they have the access to financial resources. We currently have three at the moment, but we're looking to have ten by the end of 2024. This is a picture of a successful hub we already have operating in Guatemala, whose director actually is also very closely involved with the national Blue Shield committee. And they were able, over the past two years, to provide first aid in three instances, and this was the National Library of El Salvador last year after it was flooded, which kind of proves the concepts that there's available and ready expertise already on the ground which can provide very quick support tailored to the needs that are there on the ground, working with material that is available and already has networks in place for support, if needed.

Those two activities are supported by two other elements of our program which we see are as vital as the others, which are mobilising networks and sharing knowledge, and awareness and advocacy. Being around already for quite a long time in this field, like Blue Shield, you have an opportunity to connect people, and to make sure that people do not have to reinvent the wheel, in case there's an emergency, and to also contribute to the fact that relationships have to be built before a crisis actually occurs. We really try to actively mobilise our network of partners, of people we have trained in the past, of experts that are in our network, but also between funders, government agencies, and other heritage experts, to together find solutions to share knowledge and to support each other when that is needed. We have an online platform where we connect all the people who've ever been trained in first aid to cultural heritage in times of crisis course, which is like a Facebook for heritage practitioners and heritage protectors, more or less, but we also invest in developing innovative methodologies for cultural heritage protection in crisis situations that are, for example, very relevant in the Philippines, because they build with Volcanic Tuff Adobe or bamboo structures which can be easily used in Pakistan, but for example also in other places where they work with similar materials. We try to be a broker of

connections and filling gaps and building bridges, connecting partners, resources, and expertise.

Lastly, we really believe in the power of voices, and we want to be a platform of our partners in the way they work, what they feel is important, but also really to push cultural protection higher on the agenda by actually being louder about our work and the importance of it. In the coming years, we will actively invest in research and data collection in this field that really demonstrate the impact and the importance of heritage protection, so what difference does it make to lose heritage for local communities? But also what the relevance is for addressing fields like peacebuilding and reconciliation, because we feel it's important to make it tangible and more visible. So in short, we really want to make the case for the importance of heritage protection by being loud about what we do.

I'd like to conclude with some hopes and beliefs I have for the coming 25 years and something at least we will work towards and I hope many of you will join us, because I believe that in the essence of all the work that we do, this is related to the core of that. So, as I mentioned, we really want to work towards stronger and more inclusive heritage protection sectors. We see that a lot of local communities still do not have a lot of access to funding opportunities and still do not have access or have the capacity themselves to respond and protect heritage that is actually important to them, independent of external initiatives and drivers. We really want to make that case for the importance of cultural continuity, so why should culture actually be taken into account as something essential in recovery and response after a crisis and not something additional? Why is it relevant for adjacent fields? And why is it admissible in recovery and could actually contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation? And lastly, and I know we have a good partner in Blue Shield, in this we really hope we can advocate for a better integration of culture in humanitarian aid initiatives, but also existing relief mechanisms, by being loud about what we do, why it is important, and also how we can work together to make that happen.

So it's a wish for me for the coming 25 years to be louder about the importance of the work that we do and I really truly hope that we can still partner with the Blue Shield International and work together towards the goal of protecting culture in crisis. Becoming an independent organisation I think is a really nice opportunity to rethink what we do, to refocus and actually strengthen amplified work that we all do in this field and that is so important. So I still think we're logical partners, congratulations again, and thank you very much for having me here today.

Peter Stone: Sanne, thank you very much indeed for that. Yes, absolutely, I concur completely. Logical partners, and we will work on that. So thank you, that's been really interesting and good.

28 - Session 2: Questions and Discussion (2)

Peter Stone: There are a couple of questions, one very specifically to you, Sanne, so we'll just start off with that one. A question from Klaus from the Blue Shield board. Do you have any cooperation with ICCROM?

Sanne Letschert: Yes, we do actually. We were close partners in the development of the training first aid to cultural heritage in times of crisis that we set up. That was together with the Smithsonian Institution and ICCROM. And we also actively work together to see if we can support local actors in training on the ground or in times of crisis situations, so active connections and linking up.

Peter Stone: Great, thank you. Another one has come in from Layla Salih from Iraq. Is there an update to stakeholders' mapping in terms of security and military forces? For example, in Iraq, the responsibilities are always changing based on the situation, the nature of the crime and developing new units. Is there a way of keeping everything up-to-date, I suppose is the question, and who is who? And that can be for Sanne, for Tess, or anybody. Unfortunately, Luigi has had to leave us, but we can come back to him if there is any need for any other questions.

So, ladies, any response to that?

Sanne Letschert: I actually don't know of a common mapping that there is and that might be a very good idea, Peter, you know.

Tess Davis: Certainly much needed, but not familiar with it.

Peter Stone: Absolutely. I mean, I was going to say, it would be really nice to hear from one of you that there was something going on. But, actually, Layla, that's a key question and it's been reflected in some of the comments and some of the presentations, not least from Giuseppe about stability policing. Yes, there is a definite incentive, there's a need, but here is a new entity, stability policing, coming in. It's fantastic that the Centre of Excellence wants to get involved, wants to push CPP, but how does it actually fit with everything else that's going on? And what is great in that particular instance, is that we're at the beginning of that conversation, and we're already all together. So, Tess and I were there in Vicenza a couple of weeks ago. So that's great, but there are so many others who are also interested in getting involved, and how we work there. So, it's an interesting one, and it's certainly something that I think we should be trying to consider and see how we can develop it.

Does anybody else have any questions? There are a number of questions in the chat, which seemed to have been answered in the chat already. Luigi managed to answer a number before he left. So, the chat will be available somehow via Emma in the mystical way of understanding technology that she has, which defeats me entirely, but we can at least make sure that those questions and answers are made available to everybody.

30 - Session 3: Peter Stone

Peter Stone: So, my two slides. And really, these are in relation to everything that everybody's been saying. Nearly every speaker today has talked about the need for education and training and capacity building, and surprisingly enough, there is education, training and capacity building as one of our six areas of activity as the Blue Shield. People have talked about risk preparedness and proactive protection. There have been countless contributions and comments and references to emergency response, not only from Beirut, but others. And one of the things that we tried to get into the program but didn't quite squeeze in was the response from a number of Blue Shield National Committees to the floods in Europe, in Belgium and the Netherlands, in Germany and France, in particular, over the last six months or so, and the Belgium National Committee was picked out by the Belgium delegation at UNESCO in the recent 1954 Hague Convention meetings there for their fantastic work in coordination between all of the national partners within Belgium. And that takes you to coordination of Blue Shield, and with other relevant organisations and in many ways, that's what today has been all about. And then, of course, post-disaster recovery and the long term activity. Well, the post disaster side goes back straight to Guiseppe and the stability policing and everything. And then just the policy development and the legal status. Have all of our countries ratified all of the relevant bits of international legislation? Key. So I think that the six areas that we as the Blue Shield identified are spot on in what everybody has been talking about in terms of this conference and are exactly how we try to address what we do.

As I said yesterday, we don't expect every National Committee to do all of these, we don't expect all of them to prioritise them in this order. Every National Committee can prioritise those six areas in whatever order they want that relates to their particular national situation, and they need only address one or two if that's all the capacity and capability that they have at any particular time. So that's a key element, and that gives me confidence that we're on the right lines.

My only other comment is simply to take us back to this image of the triangle within the circle. And I can't see, again, anything that we've heard over the last two days contradicting this, but I can see almost everything we have seen and heard over the last two days supporting this as a vision and the means forward.

The three sectors, heritage, humanitarian, and uniformed, all of whom are probably nervous of each other, and I think I can guarantee that I've had conversations along those lines with many members of each of those sectors. We all start as I said yesterday from different starting points, but we all have and I think, again, the message has come loud and clear from the presentations, we all have that message, that end desire, of healthy, peaceful, stable, sustainable communities, because that's what makes society healthy peaceful, stable, and sustainable. And if we can get to that position globally, well, heck, wouldn't that be a wonderful achievement. But of course we're not going to do that in the next few years. We're not probably going to do that in the next 25 years. But to help us do that, what we really need to do is understand the political context, the legal context, the media context, and down there at the bottom, the reason for doing

it all, those communities. Media is crucial in all of those aspects, and we've been shown so much by those who oppose what we stand for, how the importance of media and social media is to everything that they do. And we need to be getting much better to counter that to put our views across. So those are the only two slides I wanted to use.

There are a number of comments but I don't think there are any final questions. We will again make all of these comments available at some point over the next week or so. Thank you very much for all of those comments. All of the comments are coming in saying thank you. The conference wouldn't have been there, it wouldn't have been successful, without everybody listening and taking part and asking your questions.

So, thank you Emma, thank you everybody else, and that's a lovely final comment that's come in from Arlene Fleming. Arlene, who was there at the conversations right at the beginning of the Blue Shield, and I've had some interesting conversations about that with her. Congratulations on some institution building and progress. We have done a lot over the last 25 years, but there is much, much more to do. And I'm not going to be around for the next 25 years, but I hope that those who we pass on to will not only match what we've managed, but take it much, much further. So on that note, I'm going to thank you all. If you want to put any more comments in, we, I think, can leave the chat open for a few minutes, and we'll now sign off, and if people want to sign off as they go, if anybody wants to add thank you to that, and I have finished with a minute to spare. Thank you everybody for attending. Good luck. Goodbye. And I'm going. Thank you. Bye bye.