

Concluding Remarks - The way forward

Coordination Unit of the Greek Initiative
“Addressing climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage”

2nd November 2021

Importance and Added Value of the Initiative and the Hybrid Event

- Acknowledged the impacts of climate change on our world heritage and noted in particular concern for the aggravation and irreversibility of such impacts.
- Underlined the need to raise the protection of world heritage, because of the impacts of climate change, higher on the international agenda and the deliberations for climate action.
- Highlighted the urgency for coordinated multi-scale preventive and precautionary, as well as resilient actions, at the international, national and local levels.
- Noted in particular, the importance of mainstreaming cultural heritage in climate action, for instance through its pertinent integration in the National Adaptation Plans.

- Appreciated the wealth of information provided by the States in their replies to the Coordination Unit (CU) questionnaire, and on the basis of the appraisal of the replies:
 - Stressed the importance to continuously assess the vulnerability of world heritage, also taking note of the climate predictions of the World Meteorological Organisation.
 - Stressed the usefulness for capacity building, training and education in view of strengthening the ability of States to deal with the impacts of climate change on world heritage.
 - Acknowledged the need to develop and share good practices.
 - Recognised the importance to develop – with the use of enabling technologies - a digital identity of the world heritage monuments and commended the action of the CU in this respect.
 - Agreed on actions leading to the expansion of the network of States involved in the initiative, e.g. the presentation of the initiative through the Flexible Mechanism and the Coordination Unit in international events, for instance, and among others, the UNFCCC Climate Weeks and the UNESCO Conferences and meetings, as well as other international fora.
 - Noted the importance of nominating focal points in the States involved, in view of facilitating the progress of the initiative.

Upcoming Milestones & Actions

- ✓ Summit at Heads of State and Government level organised by Greece to agree on a roadmap and provide the political momentum for follow up actions (Athens, second trimester 2022).
- ✓ Event at ministerial level under the Greek Presidency of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) to promote further the Greek UN Initiative and build relevant capacity in the Region (Athens, 2022).
- ✓ Implementation of an agreed pilot project, with contribution from the EU Southern Member States (MED 9), coordinated by the Academy of Athens in cooperation with the CU, to develop the “Climatic Identity” of selected monuments in the Mediterranean area.

Thank you for your attention!

We look forward to joining efforts with you.

More information on the website:

<https://ccich.gr/>

e-mails

- Flexible Mechanism
fm.coordunit@gsco.gov.gr
- George Kremlis:
gkremlis@primeminister.gr