



Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri

Centro di Eccellenza per le Stability Police Units

Dipartimento Studi e Ricerche - Ufficio Ricerche

International Conference

on

**Cultural Heritage Protection in Crisis
Areas**

CONCEPT NOTE

NEI SECOLI FEDELE



1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last decades, the International Community has refocused its attention toward the protection of the cultural heritage on a global scale. The focus has been to maintain and establish new doctrines to prevent atrocities committed towards all forms of cultural heritage during times of conflict and in post-conflict destabilized areas. Examples of these atrocities include the destruction of the ancient Bamiyan Buddhas by the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001, the looting of the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad in 2003, the destruction of Palmyra by DAESH in 2015 and the destruction of cultural sites during the current on-going Russia-Ukraine conflict. Fundamental documents include the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999), the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017), the Cultural Heritage-related strands of work associated to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2016 MoU between UNESCO and the Italian Government that led to the establishment of the blue helmets of culture via the *Unite4Heritage Task Force*. In this regard, there is indeed a clear necessity to develop increased awareness to bring together the vast professional and technical civilian, Military and Police experience available worldwide to inform missions' mandates and consequently tailor the International Community's Cultural Heritage Protection response also, if not chiefly, within the law enforcement's remit, with an expeditionary perspective, too.

This focus will both contribute to raising awareness and to strengthening the still limited training initiatives aimed at preparing new leaders able to identify the best solutions, make the best choices, and manage procedures in complex international and multidimensional realities such as peace operations. This is



necessary in order to improve the protection of cultural heritage on a global scale and prevent mayhem in the future.

2. AIM

To enable participants acquire a broad knowledge and refine their skill set in the protection of Cultural Heritage, with a specific focus on Civilian, Police and Military experiences. This will develop an awareness centered on the difficulties and implications that may arise while

protecting Cultural Heritage in areas of crisis. Moreover, military Commanders are often presented with the dilemma stemming from the concurring but opposing necessities to protect their forces on the one hand, and cultural property on the other, the latter for the benefit of local populations and institutions. Such situations are often severely destabilized, presenting unique challenges and demanding quick and sound decision-making. To this purpose, the identification of key information from past missions as well as solid doctrinal products aimed at systematically preserve and safeguard Cultural Heritage will be crucial.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

To raise overall awareness, particularly about the role of expeditionary law enforcement capabilities, to identify a more proactive approach and strongpoints to be disseminated as best practices but also to define shortcomings and gaps that need to be addressed to support national actors as well as International Organizations involved in peace operations to improve Cultural Heritage Protection on a global scale.

Following the conference, relevant proceedings will be published.

4. LOCATION DETAILS

The Conference will take place at CoESPU, Vicenza (Italy) from 27th - 30th September 2023 in a hybrid modality (i.e., both in person and via broadcast;



relevant link will be distributed in due time). Please refer to the Agenda for further information regarding the location and lecture's details.

5. POINT OF CONTACT

The point of contact for the Conference is Col. Arrigo GAREFFI, Head of the Studies and Research Department.

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