

ESTRATTI, SUNTI E COMUNICATI

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Entrata in vigore della Dichiarazione congiunta di cooperazione tra il Governo italiano e l'UNESCO sugli interventi congiunti di emergenza in situazioni post-conflitto ed a seguito di disastri naturali, per il restauro, la ricostruzione e la salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale e naturale internazionale, firmata a Roma il 26 ottobre 2004.

Si riporta qui di seguito, in lingua inglese, con traduzione non ufficiale in lingua italiana, il testo della Dichiarazione congiunta di cooperazione tra il Governo italiano e l'UNESCO sugli interventi congiunti di emergenza in situazioni post-conflitto ed a seguito di disastri naturali, per il restauro, la ricostruzione e la salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale e naturale internazionale firmata a Roma il 26 ottobre 2004. Detta Dichiarazione è entrata in vigore per l'Italia il 26 ottobre 2004.

JOINT DECLARATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND UNESCO ON JOINT EMERGENCY ACTIONS IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICTS OR NATURAL DISASTERS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING, REHABILITATION AND PROTECTION OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

(hereinafter referred to as "the Joint Declaration")

Social and military upheavals and unrest world wide increasingly represent a potential threat to the protection and safeguarding of archaeological sites, historical monuments and cultural institutions. As a result, cultural and natural heritage is at risk of being damaged and/or destroyed. Similarly, natural disasters contribute to the loss of heritage worldwide.

Countries affected by such circumstances may require immediate and significant assistance, whether it be in terms of human and material resources, devising emergency action to respond to the damage occurred or strengthening national capacities in preventive monitoring of cultural and natural heritage.

The Government of Italy has developed extensive expertise and experience in designing and coordinating such emergency action, by bringing together highly-qualified experts in all areas pertaining to the safeguarding, rehabilitation and protection of cultural and natural heritage, in line with the recommendations of the International Conference "Culture Counts" (Florence, 1999), hosted by the Government of Italy in cooperation with UNESCO and the World Bank, which highlighted the linkage between the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage and sustainable development.

On the international level, UNESCO has the mandate to safeguard, rehabilitate and protect the cultural and natural heritage world wide. In this capacity, UNESCO is called upon to act as the technical coordinator of operations aimed at the safeguarding, rehabilitation and protection of heritage, in situations of conflict and natural disasters.

OBJECTIVES

The present Joint Declaration aims at:

- o Strengthening the capacity of UNESCO to undertake emergency action in cases of damage to and/or destruction of the cultural and natural heritage, in response to requests for assistance by countries affected by conflicts and/or natural disasters;