

- o Establish a joint Government of Italy/UNESCO "Emergency Action Group" which will act as a mechanism to provide assistance to countries whose natural and cultural heritage is at risk or affected by conflicts and/or natural disasters. The mechanism will:
 - assess the damage and risk, including the identification of urgent measures;
 - devise operational action plans for interventions to safeguard, rehabilitate and protect affected cultural and natural heritage;
 - facilitate the coordination by national authorities of such interventions.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EMERGENCY ACTION GROUP (hereinafter referred to as "the Group"),

Composition - The Group shall be composed of highly-qualified technical experts, with demonstrated expertise in emergency management, in the following areas: engineering, architecture, archaeology, art history, restoration, conservation, museology, geology, seismology, library and archives.

The Group shall be open and flexible in its nature and composition.

Establishment - The Group shall be established jointly by UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities of Italy. The Government of Italy will communicate a list of the members of the Group to UNESCO, for its endorsement. The Group may comprise, on an *ad hoc* basis, as appropriate, specialized personnel in the field of illicit traffic of cultural property.

Functions - In line with the objectives set out above, the Group shall make available technical advisory services to UNESCO, to:

- assess damaged/destroyed cultural and natural heritage, including through inventories and documentation;
- devise emergency plans, including urgent measures for rehabilitation, consolidation and protection;
- strengthen national capacities, namely through policy and legal advice to reinforce the safeguarding and protection of cultural and natural heritage and the design and implementation of professional training in the areas covered by the Joint Declaration;
- assist national authorities in countering the looting and traffic of cultural property, as well as illegal excavations, *inter alia* through training of law enforcement personnel.

Operational procedures - The Group shall be called upon by UNESCO to respond to specific emergency situations, as a result of damage and/or destruction of cultural and/or natural heritage. In close consultation with the beneficiary country, UNESCO shall ensure the coordination of all operational interventions and decide on priorities to be addressed.

In line with the functions defined above, the Group shall provide recommendations on emergency measures and assistance it may undertake for endorsement by UNESCO. The recommendations shall include a budget estimate of the proposed emergency measures in terms