

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF JORDAN & PALESTINE TO UNESCO

PARIS; JUNE 3, 2013

Jordan and Palestine deeply deplores the Israeli refusal to fulfill the terms of the agreement concerning Jerusalem reached at the 191st session of the Executive Board. Indeed, Israel is changing the terms of the agreement by imposing new conditions to accept the UNESCO mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls.

Israel requires the mission to visit exclusively 18 sites. These sites constitute the first pilot phase of the *Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem!* Reducing the Action Plan to its pilot phase of 18 minor and secondary sites is a unilateral restrictive interpretation. Jordan and Palestine categorically reject such restrictive delimitation.

This new Israeli condition not only violates the above mentioned agreement but also harms the UNESCO confidence building efforts. Terms of the agreement are reflected in paragraph 11 of Brasilia resolution that never mentions **18 sites** of the Action Plan (annex1). The statement of Israel before the Executive Board members (annex2) also attests that the reference for dispatching the mission is the same paragraph.

The unfortunate Israeli Government decision to interrupt the Unesco mission is in itself politicization. Paragraph 11 of Brasilia resolution clearly defines the Unesco mission and no statement or declaration can, in any way, affect it.

Moreover, the Israeli Delegation seems to forget that the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls is not among « Israeli Cultural and religious sites » but an integral part of East Jerusalem occupied by Israel since 1967. Should we recall Israel that the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls is a World Heritage site inscribed by Jordan on the World Heritage List in 1981 and on the World Heritage List in Danger in 1982.

Jordan and Palestine are committed to fully respect and implement the terms of the above mentioned agreement regarding the dispatch of the UNESCO mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls as well as the technical experts meeting concerning the Mughrabi Ascent as referred to in 191Ex/Decision 9 (annex 3) and 191Ex/Decision 5.1 (annex 4).

Finally Jordan and Palestine call upon Israel to respect the terms of the agreement assured, by the Israeli Ambassador statement, at the 191st session of the Executive Board; an agreement meant to give a chance of trust-building among concerned parties.

**Permanent Delegation of
JORDAN to UNESCO**

**Permanent Delegation of
PALESTINE to UNESCO**

Annex I

PARAGRAPH 11 FROM BRASILIA RESOLUTION 34COM 7A.20 OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS (SITE PROPOSED BY JORDAN)

11. Requests a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property as referred to in the *Operational Guidelines* to assess and advise on progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and, in cooperation and consultation with the concerned parties, identify appropriate operational and financial mechanisms and modalities to strengthen technical cooperation with all concerned parties in the framework of the Action Plan;

Annex II

COMPLETE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AS STATED BY THE ISRAELI DELEGATE AT THE 191ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Following intensive consultations with various delegations and the indispensable assistance rendered by the Director General, positive progress for UNESCO has been achieved.

As part of this progress, we would like to state the following:

1. Israel is willing to participate with Jordanian, Palestinian, and World Heritage Centre in an experts meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent, similar to the one conducted in October 2010. This experts meeting is to be held in May 2013 in Paris at a date, which will be decided upon by the Director General.
2. Israel accepts and shall facilitate a UNESCO technical mission to the 'Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls' to start on May 19th 2013 in accordance with Paragraph 11 of Decision 34 COM 7A.20 adopted by consensus in August 2010 during the World Heritage Committee meeting in Brasilia, Brazil. The composition of the mission will be in accordance with the aforementioned World Heritage Decision.
3. The report and recommendations of the mission as well as the report of the technical meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent in Paris will be prepared with a view to present them to the concerned parties on June 1st 2013 and to the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee in Phnom Penh.
4. Israel is committed to the above provided that the five items submitted by the Arab Group on the agenda of the current Executive Board will be procedurally adjourned to the 192nd session of the executive board and that the only decision related to Jerusalem to be considered in the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee will be the adoption of the report and recommendations of the mission as well as the report of the Director General on the technical meeting.

Annex III

EXCERPT FROM 191EX/DECISION 9

JERUSALEM AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 36 C/RESOLUTION 43 AND 190 EX/DECISION 13

2. Acknowledges the concerned parties commitment to implement the World Heritage Committee resolution 34 COM 7A20 (Brasilia consensus resolution) by sending a joint WHC/ICCROM/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls according to paragraph 11 of the above mentioned resolution as reflected by the Israeli representative's letter of 23 April 2013 to the Director-General;
3. Thanks the Director-General for her efforts and initiatives to lead to an understanding between all concerned parties and to the implementation of the above mentioned resolution and invites her to continue these efforts;

Annex IV

EXCERPT FROM 191EX/DECISION 5.I

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 36 C/RESOLUTION 43 AND 190 EX/DECISION 5 (II) RELATED TO THE ASCENT TO THE MUGHRABI GATE IN THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

2. Acknowledges the concerned parties' commitment to implement the World Heritage Committee resolution 34COM7A20 (Brasilia consensus resolution) as well as their agreement to participate in an experts meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent in May 2013 in Paris as reflected by the Israeli representative's letter of 23 April 2013 to the Director-General;