



## **The 5th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk**

Ramada City Center Hotel, Manama, 22 - 23 June 2018

We, the Civil Society Organizations who have attended the 5th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk organized by World Heritage Watch on 22-23 June 2018 in Bahrain, coming from 24 countries in 6 continents, as active and concerned citizens dealing with Natural and Cultural World Heritage properties at different places, would like to bring the following to the attention of the World Heritage Committee:

### Resolution

#### **On the Preservation of Five Libyan World Heritage Sites**

The continued threats to the Libyan World Heritage sites are characterised as following:

1. illegal developments destroying the World Heritage sites and surrounding landscapes, such as housing and holiday homes, new roads and water pipelines;
2. expansion of agriculture to the historical cities of Cyrene and Leptis magnus;
3. security instability in Libya and the presence of armed groups at these sites or in their direct surroundings, especially in the historical city of Sabratha;
4. threatening impacts of climatic, geological and other environmental factors;
5. increases in waves of illegal immigration and the presence of large numbers of people close to rock art sites in Tadarat Acacus;
6. theft and looting in all sites.

The World Heritage Committee should reiterate its great concern about the consistent looting of Libyan artefacts, noting that more than 100 artefacts have been looted already.

This illicit trade is destroying a large part of Libyan cultural heritage, which is also a loss to the entire world. Libya has ratified all the international conventions that protect cultural and archaeological effects (Hague First and Second Convention, UNESCO 1970, 1972 & 2001), and has national laws that are designed to protect sites and archaeological artefacts.

The World Heritage Committee should request the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies to:

- 1) Urge the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*, details of all major illegal developments within the properties and their buffer zones.
- 2) Urge the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about the increased waves of illegal immigration and the presence of large numbers of people close to the five World Heritage properties.

3) Urge the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre /ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to inspect and evaluate the five Libyan Heritage Sites as a matter for immediate action and consider this an opportunity for the Mission to meet with the representatives of civil society and local communities.

4) Urge UNESCO to work with the State Party to develop a World Heritage management plan for the five sites following consultation with national and municipal authorities and the local community.

Manama, 23 June 2018