



## **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 Legal and Mitigation Measures for Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis within Luxor City**

The area of the World Heritage Site *Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis* is located in the modern city of Luxor on the east bank of the River Nile, Egypt. This part of the WHS contains Luxor and Karnak Temples and the Processional Way that connects both (also known as the Avenue of the Sphinx). Many national and international development plans have taken place since 1979 in the city of Luxor with a focus on the World Heritage site. The Processional Way, which is located in the buffer zone, has recently been fully excavated and exposed according to the latest development plan. The Processional Way of 3 kilometers divides the city into two parts. In order to re-connect these parts, two bridges for pedestrians and vehicles were constructed over the Processional Way, hereby causing irreversible damage to the archaeological site.

It is recommended to the WHC:

1. To initiate a process to alter the boundaries of the WH property *Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis* to include the Processional Way within newly agreed boundaries and use this opportunity to draw up a statement of OUV.
2. To acknowledge the damage that has been caused by the construction of two bridges over the Processional Way in the existing buffer zone, and request strict and immediate mitigation measures to the State Party.

It is recommended to the State Party of Egypt:

3. In response to the WHC note (6) in its decision 41 COM 7B.76, to establish a WHS Steering Committee specifically to preserve and protect the WH property *Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis* within the framework of the national law no.144 of 2006 On the Regulation of the Demolition of Unthreatened Buildings and Constructions and the Conservation of the Architectural Heritage.

Manama, 23 June 2018