



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

Projects Compromising the OUV of the WHS “Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments”

In 2018 the Saint Petersburg branch of the ICOMOS National Committee conducted a comprehensive analysis of the impact that various projects in different stages of realization and already realized, have on the outstanding universal value of the WHS “Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments”.

The presentation provided by ICOMOS St. Petersburg on their website (<http://icomos-spb.ru/>) demonstrates cases of demolition of historic properties, their loss due to neglect or inconsistent conservation measures, reconstructions that drastically change the originals, constructions of new buildings and bridges that intervene the historic urban fabric and compromise its integrity and authenticity. The most scandalous case of harmful modern construction is the infamous 500-meter skyscraper Lakhta-Centre erected by Gazprom which corrupted the unique urban skyline of Saint Petersburg, renowned for its delicate horizontal silhouette.

The presentation touches upon the projects yet to be implemented, too. These include the massive construction intended by Gazprom for the lot at the Okhta Cape - a vast archeological site holding the remains of the fortresses from the 13-17th centuries and a neolithic man site; a project of Court Quarter on the Petrogradskaya side; a residential highrise in direct vicinity of the Chesmensky Palace; vast residential development within the Buffer Zone of the Pulkovskaya Observatory. Most of these projects, undoubtedly compromising the OUV of the WHS, even if at early stages of their implementation, can still be stopped or significantly restricted.

In view of the above said, the participants of the 5th International Civil Society Forum call upon:

- (1) the World Heritage Committee **to urge** the State Party, prior to making any decisions concerning construction and development that can potentially impact the OUV of the property, to duly conduct Heritage Impact Assessments in accordance with the ICOMOS

Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties and all guidelines and requirements of the UNESCO WHC and to submit these documents along with all project proposals in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

- (2) the World Heritage Committee **to strongly appeal** to the State Party for strict implementation of the WHC decisions and of the World Heritage Convention, including developing and duly putting into effect of the property Buffer Zone, immediately stopping implementation of all above mentioned projects.

The full text of the ICOMOS impact assessment can be downloaded at <https://goo.gl/wr4hgz>

Manama, 23 June 2018