



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 Roşia Montana (Romania) – a Mining Landscape to be Preserved as a Site of Universal Value

Roşia Montană (Romania) is an outstanding Roman gold mines landscape which should be preserved given the acknowledgement of its universal value in the ICOMOS report for the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Manama, Bahrain.

The recent action of the Romanian Government to stop the procedure to inscribe Roşia Montană on the UNESCO World Heritage List is SURPRISING and WORRYING since it is unprecedented for a member state to proceed in such a manner once a nomination file has been recommended for inscription. It is considered in the interest of Romania, as State Party to the World Heritage Convention, to continue with the UNESCO procedure in order to clarify the cultural value of Roşia Montană.

This surprising action by the member state threatens to deprive the site of valuable international cooperation and assistance which World Heritage listing provides. It would also be a disappointing response to the high expectations of international heritage civil society and the international professional community which have steadily supported World Heritage listing for this truly outstanding site. After years of support - active, moral, and professional – there is a threat of suspension of the procedure and of the loss of benefits that World Heritage brings, including international recognition of the particular importance of this site for humanity and strong support for sustainable development in the region. There is a global acceptance that cultural and natural heritage are strong economical resources, especially in those cases where the World Heritage label is granted. The rejection of such a sustainable path is regrettable and not the kind of decision a member state is expected to take in order to better promote and develop its most precious cultural heritage.

The 5th International Civil Society Forum on World Heritage firmly supports the inscription of Roşia Montană (Romania) in the World Heritage List. The member state is strongly encouraged to complete the procedure of inscription and stand ready to continue our professional support to the protection and conservation of this outstanding property.

Manama, 23 June 2018