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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

EXPERT MEETING ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

11 - 14 July 2012

DEFINITIONS OF SELECT CONCEPTS

- I. **“Museum”** shall be taken to mean any permanent establishment administered in the general interest for the purpose of preserving, studying, enhancing by various means and, in particular, exhibiting to the public for its delectation and instruction, groups of objects and specimens of cultural value: artistic, historical, scientific and technological collections, botanical and zoological gardens and aquariums.

Extract from the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Most Effective Means of Rendering Museums Accessible to Everyone (1960)

URL Reference:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13063&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

- II. **“Movable cultural property”** shall be taken to mean all movable objects which are the expression and testimony of human creation or of the evolution of nature and which are of archaeological, historical, artistic, scientific or technical value and interest, including items in the following categories:
 - i. products of archaeological exploration and excavations conducted on land and under water;
 - ii. antiquities such as tools, pottery, inscriptions, coins, seals, jewelry, weapons and funerary remains, including mummies; (iii) items resulting from the dismemberment of historical monuments;
 - iii. material of anthropological and ethnological interest;
 - iv. items relating to history, including the history of science and technology and military and social history, to the life of peoples and national leaders, thinkers, scientists and artists and to events of national importance;

- v. items of artistic interest, such as: paintings and drawings, produced entirely by hand on any support and in any material (excluding industrial designs and manufactured articles decorated by hand); original prints, and posters and photographs, as the media for original creativity; original artistic assemblages and montages in any material; works of statuary art and sculpture in any material; works of applied art in such materials as glass, ceramics, metal, wood, etc.;
- vi. manuscripts and incunabula, codices, books, documents or publications of special interest;
- vii. items of numismatic (medals and coins) and philatelic interest;
- viii. archives, including textual records, maps and other cartographic materials, photographs, cinematographic films, sound recordings and machine-readable records;
- ix. items of furniture, tapestries, carpets, dress and musical instruments;
- x. zoological, botanical and geological specimens;

III. **“Protection”** shall be taken to mean the prevention and coverage of risks as defined below:

- i. “prevention of risks” means all the measures required, within a comprehensive protection system, to safeguard movable cultural property from every risk to which such property may be exposed, including those resulting from armed conflict, riots or other public disorders;
- ii. “risk coverage” means the guarantee of indemnification in the case of damage to, deterioration, alteration or loss of movable cultural property resulting from any risk whatsoever, including risks incurred as a result of armed conflict, riots or other public disorders whether such coverage is effected through a system of governmental guarantees and indemnities, through the partial assumption of the risks by the State under a deductible or excess loss arrangement, through commercial or national insurance or through mutual insurance arrangements.

Each Member State should adopt whatever criteria it deems most suitable for defining the items of movable cultural property within its territory which should be given the protection envisaged in this Recommendation by reason of their archaeological, historical, artistic, scientific or technical value.

Extract from the UNESCO Recommendation for the Protection of Movable Cultural Property (1978)

URL Reference:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13137&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

IV. **“Cultural institution”** shall be taken to mean any permanent establishment administered in the general interest for the purpose of preserving, studying and enhancing cultural property and making it accessible to the public and which is licensed or approved by the competent public authorities of each State;

- V. **“Cultural property”** shall be taken to mean items which are the expression and testimony of human creation and of the evolution of nature which, in the opinion of the competent bodies in individual States, are, or may- be, of historical, artistic, scientific or technical value and interest, including items in the following categories:
- i. zoological, botanical and geological specimens ;
 - ii. archaeological objects;
 - iii. objects and documentation of ethnological interest;
 - iv. works of fine art and of the applied arts;
 - v. literary, musical, photographic and cinematographic works ;
 - vi. archives and documents;
- VI. **“International exchange”** shall be taken to mean any transfer of ownership, use or custody of cultural property between States or cultural institutions in different countries- whether it takes the form of the loan, deposit, sale or donation of such property-carried out under such conditions as may be agreed between the parties concerned.

Extract from the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the International Exchange of Cultural Property (1976)

URL Reference:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13132&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html