**Integrating Culture and Heritage in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2**

**Why this is Important and How it could be done**

**Prepared by UNESCO**

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1. **The issue**

Lack of consideration for the cultural context (including heritage) in which DRR policies and plans are developed and implemented, seriously undermines their effectiveness.

This is first of all because risk perceptions and behaviors associated to disasters preparedness and response are profoundly influenced by people’s cultures, as expressed through their religious beliefs and traditional habits and practices.

Secondly, DRR policies and plans should recognize the fundamental role of cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible - as a source of strength and resilience for communities, due to its association to identities and because it incorporates risk-sensitive strategies developed over millennia of adaptation with the local environment.

The pre-zero draft of the HFA2, does not mention culture next to “social, economic and environmental systems” (paragraph 9, page 4) and thus represents a step backward with respect to already agreed language in the HFA 2005-2015. Similarly, no mention is made of the importance of safeguarding cultures and heritage as a strategy to build resilience.

It is thus essential to correct these shortcoming in further versions of the HFA2, so as to give culture and heritage the importance they deserve within a more holistic, inclusive and effective policy for DRR. This point was emphasized also in the Joint UN Statement delivered at the open-ended Informal Consultative Meeting on Section C: Guiding Principles of the HFA2, which took place in Geneva on 18 September last.

1. **Drafting suggestions for revisions of the pre-zero Draft or Zero Draft of the HFA2**

To adequately integrate consideration for culture and heritage in the HFA2, in line with agreed language from the HFA1, it is proposed the following editing to the current pre-zero draft of the HFA2, section by section (see proposed additions in ***bold and italics***):

1. **Preamble**

Paragraph 5, third indent (page 3):

* Disaster risk management policies and plans should be tailored to and take into account ***the local cultural context as well as*** the political and administrative structure of the state.

1. **Purpose, Scope, Outcome and Goals**

Amend paragraph 9 (page 4) as follows:

In keeping with the HFA expected outcome, the present framework aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, ***cultural,*** economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

Amend Heading prior to paragraph 17 (page 10) as follows:

“Investing in Social, ***Cultural,*** Economic and Environmental Resilience”

Amend Heading prior to paragraph 21 (page 13) as follows:

“Investing in Social, ***Cultural,*** Economic and Environmental Resilience”

1. **Guiding principles**

Paragraph 12 (page 5), add a new guiding principle after g), [new i)] as follows:

1. ***The planning and implementation of DRR should be rooted in a deep understanding of the perceptions and attitudes of the concerned communities resulting from their culture, expressed through religious beliefs and historically-influenced behaviors. At the same time, the ability of culture to strengthen social cohesion and manage risks effectively should be recognized as a key component of the resilience of communities.***
2. **Priorities for Action**

Within paragraph 14, (page 7), amend sub-paragraph a) as follows:

Systematically survey, record and publicly account for all disaster loss and economic***, cultural*** and social impact, taking into account gender-specific and sex/age/disability-disaggregated data.

Within paragraph 14, (page 7), amend sub-paragraph b) as follows:

Periodically assess disaster risks, namely persons and economic and fiscal assets’ exposure and vulnerability as well as hazards’ characteristics***, taking into account local cultural perceptions and related attitudes***.

In paragraph 16 (page 9), amend sub-paragraph a) as follows:

Preparing or reviewing and periodically updating disaster preparedness and contingency plans and policy at all levels, with a particular focus on ensuring in the design and planning the participation of all social groups, including the most vulnerable***, as well as consideration for relevant traditional knowledge.***