The Working Session provided a vision for the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage in disasters and conflicts and promoted its recognition as an important element of community resilience and local development.

Cultural heritage was recognized as a driver of resilience by virtue of its perseverance over time. The built and natural cultural heritage reflects the collective memory but also the identity of a people yet is susceptible to disasters and conflict as well as the effects of climate change. The session pointed to the ways in which cultural heritage provides important insights and opportunities for enhancing disaster risk reduction, post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery, building back better and for stimulating local economic and social development.

Experiences such as the discovery of cultural heritage sites in Japan post-earthquake and the initiatives of the African Word Heritage Fund illustrated the virtue of partnerships across sectors, the mutual benefits of knowledge sharing and training, and the added value of promoting local development plans and processes that include cultural heritage.

Highlighting the local commitment for promoting resilience with innovative solutions in which cultural heritage is an integral component of disaster risk reduction planning and response, the experience of Venice, a role model in the Making Cities Resilient campaign, further served to showcase the direct correlation between cultural heritage and disaster risk reduction and the benefits of securing the built and natural environment and cultural patrimony.

The importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge, beliefs and practices provided insight into a diversity of proven strategies for, among others, early warning and monitoring and drew attention to the value of actively involving community leaders in trainings, investing in communities and sharing experiences. The session reminded that crimes against cultural heritage are now recognized as crimes against humanity and is also recognized as an important means for strengthening human resilience.
Speakers List

**Welcome:** Dr. Koichiro Matsuura, Former Director General UNESCO

**Moderator:** Dr. Stefano De Caro, Director-General, ICCROM

**Panelists:**
- Dr. Masanori Aoyagi, Commissioner, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan
- Mr. Pierpaolo Campostrini, Managing Director CORILA
- Dr. Webber Ndoro, Director, African World Heritage Fund
- Ms. Corinne Wegener, Cultural Heritage Preservation Officer, Smithsonian Institute
- Mr. Giovanni Boccardi, Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Culture Sector, UNESCO
- Ms. Galina Angarova, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)