



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector Division for Heritage

Mr Juwang Zhu
Director of the Division for
Sustainable Development
UN Department for Economic and
Social Affairs

Ms Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli
Director of the Division for Ocean
Affairs and the Law of the Sea
UN Office of Legal Affairs

18 November 2016

Ref.: CLT/HER/CHP/16/8646

Dear Mrs Goettsche-Wanli, Dear Mr Zhu,

By letter of 2 November 2016, Ref. DSD/2016/480, you invited us to suggest input to the Secretary-General's background note on the upcoming UN Conference on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Oceans), to take place at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017.

As you know, UNESCO provides among others the Secretariats to

- the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, focusing on traces of human existence having a cultural, historical or archaeological character which have been partially or totally under water, periodically or continuously, for at least 100 years; and to,
- the 1972 World Heritage Convention and its Marine Programme, focusing on the conservation of natural ocean features inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Therefore, we are pleased to suggest the inclusion, in the upcoming UN Conference, of a partnership dialogue on underwater cultural and natural heritage, animated by UNESCO, and to ask you to also allow the Organization to present the theme of underwater cultural and natural heritage protection in the plenary meeting.

Moreover, we would like to organize a side-event on the protection of underwater cultural and natural heritage and hope this offer is amenable to you.

Finally, we would like to suggest a paragraph on the importance of the cultural and natural heritage of the oceans in your background note, and would be delighted to contribute to its drafting.

.../..

I am pleased to include information on UNESCO's work, annexed to this letter. For additional information you might wish to contact Ms Ulrike Guerin, responsible for the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention (e-mail u.guerin@unesco.org; tel: +33 1 45 68 44 06) on issues concerning the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, and Ms Fanny Douvere, Coordinator of Marine Programme, World Heritage Centre (e-mail f.douvere@unesco.org; tel: +33 1 45 68 15 62) on the World Heritage Convention's Marine Programme. On organizational issues, you might wish to contact Ms Marie-Paule Roudil at the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York (tel.: +917 367 3950; e-mail: mp.roudil@unesco.org).

Thanking you for your attention, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Mechtild Rössler
Director

Enc.