



Resolutions of “The Working Conference on Regional Approaches on Disaster Recovery and Heritage Preservation” Calling for the Establishment of a Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network

Whereas the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives (hereafter CARBICA) was actively involved in the response to the cultural heritage needs of Caribbean territories affected by the severe passage of hurricanes during the 2017 season;

Whereas in response CARBICA, with the support from the International Council on Archives (hereafter ICA) and other agencies, conducted a needs assessment survey, training sessions and consultations in affected territories;

Whereas CARBICA, in partnership with the ICA, UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland/OCW, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, and the Government of Sint Maarten organized the training conference “Regional Approaches to Disaster Recovery and Heritage Preservation” 30 July to 2 August 2018 for international and regional policy makers, emergency responders and cultural heritage stewards to meet for the first time following the catastrophic hurricane season of 2017 to exchange priorities and methods that will ensure the best possible outcomes for the regional protection, not only of people and property but also of cultural heritage;

Whereas having considered the 2017 Addendum to the Strategy on the Reinforcement of UNESCO’s Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict that corresponds to the four priorities for action of the 2015 Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, applied specifically to culture; now therefore

Be it resolved that CARBICA

1. Seeks to promote and facilitate the continued collaboration between heritage protection stakeholders and partnerships emanating from the circumstances of the 2017 hurricane season;
2. Calls for **Expressions of Interest** in establishing a **Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network** (hereafter the Network) — an initiative of CARBICA, as a collaborative network of stakeholders and service providers committed to strengthening the Caribbean’s cultural heritage community, before, during and after disasters through an organized communication system, as well as coordinated activities and services in the field. The main goals are to respond in times of crises to the heritage preservation needs of Caribbean territories and encourage training and support for stakeholder institutions for the most critical periods of need;



3. Invites other relevant Caribbean professional networks to collaborate and contribute to mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities of the proposed Network;
4. Encourages governments and all relevant cultural and disaster risk management organizations and institutions at all levels, including CDEMA, to develop policies and mechanisms for culturally-aware and informed approaches to disaster risk programmes and activities, with explicit involvement of the cultural heritage sector for relief and recovery operations, and
5. Establishes a working group to continue the development of the Network.

Philipsburg, St.Maarten, 2 August 2018