

**PRESS KIT**

**VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC**

**TO ABU DHABI**

*United Arab Emirates*



**PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE  
CULTUREL EN PÉRIL**

Conférence Internationale Sur La Protection Du Patrimoine  
Culturel Dans Les Situations De Conflit



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**Friday 2 and Saturday 3 December 2016**

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## BRIEFING NOTE

The President of the French Republic will travel to Abu Dhabi on 2-3 December for the Conference on Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage which he will close along with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed.

This conference is the result of a joint French-United Arab Emirates initiative which has been in preparation for over three years. It is the cultural aspect of the fight already being waged against terrorism militarily and politically.

The President of the French Republic has thus made safeguarding heritage one of the main themes of French cultural diplomacy since February 2013, when he visited Mali with the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova.

That visit provided an opportunity to begin the reconstruction and restoration process of the Timbuktu mausoleums, but also to begin international discussions on how to:

- better safeguard cultural property threatened by conflict;
- preserve the cultural diversity endangered by terrorist fanaticism;

Following his visit to the Department of Near Eastern Antiquities in the Louvre on 18 March 2015, the day on which the Bardo Museum in Tunisia was attacked, the President assigned Jean-Luc Martinez a fact-finding mission. He retained the main guidelines during the UNESCO General Conference on 17 November 2015, just four days after the 13 November attacks.

The Abu Dhabi conference, the principle of which was presented at the Ise-Shima G7 Summit in Japan last May, was prepared in conjunction with the personal representatives of both Heads of State, Jack Lang, President of the *Institut du monde arabe* (Arab World Institute), and Mohamed Al Mubarak, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority. This conference marks both the culmination, so that concrete commitments can be made, and the starting point of a process which will continue into the first half of 2017, with the adoption of a framework resolution at the United Nations Security Council.

The conference will help to put in place new tools to safeguard heritage under threat from terrorism and armed conflict, with: a political statement which commits the 40 participating States to create an international fund open to public and private contributions and an international network of safe havens for endangered cultural property.

The Crown Prince of the UAE worked personally to ensure a high level of representation from the Arab States at the conference on safeguarding heritage, at a time when it is being targeted all over the region by terrorists and fundamentalists. He wanted to ensure that this conference coincide with the UAE National Day.

This event demonstrates the importance of cultural events to the French-UAE relationship. The Louvre Abu Dhabi is the strongest symbol of this. The President of the Republic will visit the building along with architect Jean Nouvel. The Louvre Abu Dhabi is the first universal museum in the Arab World which will be open to the public in the months ahead.

This will be a show of strength in both countries in the fight against extremism and obscurantism, at a time of multiple crises in the Middle East and increased identitarian closure in Western societies.

The President will also visit French troops in the UAE and will commend them on their work which directly contributes to the security of the people of France. He will also hold a meeting with the Crown Prince on the French-UAE defence partnership, which is very close as shown by the “Gulf 2016” exercise which took place throughout November and mobilized 1,400 French soldiers, hundreds of armoured vehicles, about 20 aircraft and a first-rate frigate.

Finally, the President will meet the French community in Abu Dhabi, one of the largest in the Arab World with over 25,000 people.

## PROGRAMME

**Time difference: 3 hours ahead of Paris**

### **Friday 2 December**

- 5:55 p.m.** The President of the Republic arrives at Abu Dhabi International Airport
- 6:30 p.m.** The President of the Republic arrives at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.
- 6:45 p.m.** UAE National Day Ceremony
- 8 p.m.** Dinner and bilateral meeting with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

### **Saturday 3 December**

- 10 a.m.** Tour of the future Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum.
- 10:30 a.m.** Press statement by the President of the French Republic.
- 11 a.m.** Reception in honour of the French community
- 1 p.m.** Close of the Abu Dhabi International Conference on Endangered Heritage.  
Speeches by Heads of State attending the Conference  
Family photo.  
Conclusion by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture.  
Speech by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.  
Address by the President of the French Republic.  
Adoption of the Declaration of Abu Dhabi.
- 2 p.m.** Working lunch in honour of the Heads of Delegation.
- 3:45 p.m.** Visit to the French forces in the United Arab Emirates.  
*Air base*  
Military honours, briefing  
Address by the President of the French Republic

## TOUR OF THE LOUVRE ABU DHABI BUILDING

During his visit, the President of the French Republic will visit the site of the future Louvre Abu Dhabi. This is one of the most symbolic expressions of the partnership between France and the United Arab Emirates and France's largest cultural project outside of France.

### The project

Created in 2007 following an intergovernmental agreement between Abu Dhabi and France, the Louvre Abu Dhabi and its universal narrative represent a spirit of openness and intercultural dialogue, setting out works from various eras and civilizations, with a major historical, cultural and sociological impact. As the first universal museum in the Arab World, the Louvre Abu Dhabi is an ambitious project, with the notions of discovery, meetings and education deeply ingrained in its identity. The museum's permanent collections as well as major loans from prestigious French institutions will form an artistic and historical narrative, transporting visitors from ancient times to the present day via 23 permanent galleries organized around 12 themes.

### Architecture

Jean Nouvel, winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, drew inspiration from traditional Arab architectural culture to design the Louvre Abu Dhabi. Blending into its environment, the Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed as a "city-museum" on the sea and comprises a series of white buildings inspired by Arab medinas and traditional low constructions, in a modern version using high-quality cement. In total, the site has 55 separate buildings. Its enormous dome with a diameter of 180 meters covers most of the museum and is an iconic structure which is visible from the sea.

### Partners

-**The Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA)** supervises all non-construction activity, i.e. purchases, operations and visitor experiences. Tourism Development & Investment Company is the project manager on Saadiyat Island and the other major tourist areas in Abu Dhabi.

**The France-Muséums Agency (AFM)** was created for the construction of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, in partnership with major cultural institutions and French museums. The AFM is responsible for honouring France's commitments to the Louvre Abu Dhabi project and for structuring the expertise provided by the cultural institutions involved.

-**The Louvre Museum**, via an intergovernmental agreement, will lend its name to the Louvre Abu Dhabi for a period of 30 years, while the temporary exhibitions will be lent for 15 years and the artwork for 10 years.

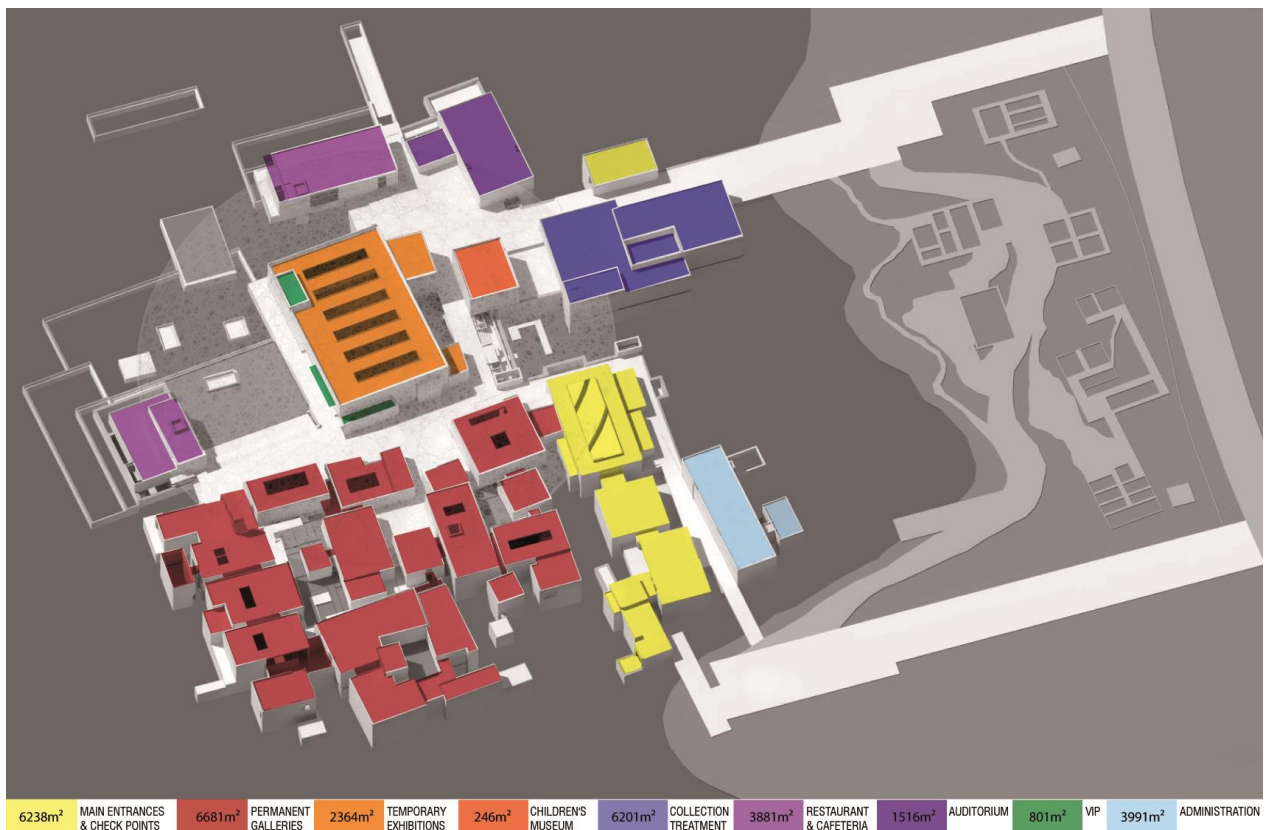


External public area shaded by the dome of the Louvre Abu Dhabi. Architect: Ateliers Jean Nouvel ©





Aerial view of the building with the dome designed by Jean Nouvel





## THE ABU DHABI CONFERENCE ON SAFEGUARDING ENDANGERED CULTURAL HERITAGE



### PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL EN PÉRIL

Conférence Internationale Sur La Protection Du Patrimoine  
Culturel Dans Les Situations De Conflit

**The international conference on safeguarding endangered heritage is at the core of the President of the French Republic's visit to Abu Dhabi on 2-3 December. Organized by the UAE and French authorities, its mission is to create new tools to tackle armed conflict situations threatening cultural heritage.**

The destruction and looting of historical sites, particularly in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Mali, has led France and the United Arab Emirates to work together to find concrete solutions.

This international conference deals with safeguarding cultural heritage threatened with destruction in armed conflict or terrorist situations. Its aim is to launch an international partnership to safeguard endangered heritage, to enable concrete commitments from States, major world museums, foundations and philanthropic actors to fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, to enable threatened works to be stored in a safe place and to renovate and restore the memory of destroyed or looted sites. Almost 50 States will be represented at the conference, and will be invited to debate around three themes: prevention, intervention and reconstruction.

### **The origins of the Abu Dhabi international conference**

In February 2013, the President of the French Republic and the Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova together visited the mausoleums in Timbuktu (Mali) and decided to launch an international discussion on safeguarding endangered cultural property around the world.

Following Daesh's destruction of the sites at Nimrud and Hatra, and the museum in Mosul, the President of the Republic and Irina Bokova visited the Louvre's Department of Near Eastern Antiquities on 18 March 2015. A few months later, on 29 June 2015, the President of the Republic sent a letter of engagement to Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the Louvre, requesting that he draw up a report on safeguarding heritage in armed conflict situations. This report was published on 17 November 2015, on the 70th anniversary of the creation of UNESCO.

On 26 May 2016, the issue of safeguarding heritage in armed conflict situations included the concerns of the international community; Jean-Luc Martinez made a speech at the G7 in Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Prime Minister and at the request of the President of the French Republic.

On 5 July, on the inauguration by the President of the Republic and the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdallah bin Zayed, of the renovation of the “Clock Pavilion” at the Louvre Museum, an International Conference on endangered heritage was announced, to be held in Abu Dhabi. **Jack Lang was appointed personal representative of the President of the Republic**, responsible for organizing the Conference jointly with Mohammed Al Mubarak, designated as personal representative of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

### **Aims of this Conference**

The international conference on safeguarding endangered heritage has two main objectives. **The first is to create an international fund to safeguard endangered heritage in conflict areas, which will aim to raise \$100 million.** On a voluntary basis, this Fund will be open to public and private contributors and will be aimed at supporting prevention, emergency intervention and help with reconstruction.

The second objective is to **implement an international network of safe havens for endangered cultural property**, in response to requests from States wanting to store their endangered items in a safe place. This storage will be ensured by observing guidelines: conservation, ownership, return and the protection from seizure of the various pieces of art. In the interests of fairness and transparency, non-governmental organizations will be involved.

Finally, the States present will adopt a **political statement** in support of safeguarding endangered heritage.

## **THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAFEGUARDING ENDANGERED HERITAGE IN CONFLICT ZONES**

**The creation of a dedicated international Fund for protecting endangered cultural heritage due to armed conflict and terrorism** is today essential in order to increase the resources allocated to safeguarding threatened cultural heritage, and to achieve better coordination among the many existing initiatives around the world.

With a mission to promote fundraising in order to safeguard cultural heritage, this Fund will begin a sustainable process for long-term action. With the help of UNESCO's scientific expertise, it will enable increased international mobilization from all partners, whether they be States, non-governmental organizations or private foundations.

The funds will be allocated based on transparent criteria, via assessments. A foundation will be created. It will be based in Geneva, where many international organizations with a long tradition of philanthropic and humanitarian initiatives are headquartered, like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, the Red Cross and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

This fund will be managed by a foundation board which will be representative of the partners' diversity. Its governance will be supplemented by a scientific committee, an audit and finance consultative committee, as well as an ethics and governance committee.

The Fund strategy will apply to the entire heritage chain: prevention (training, implementation of emergency safeguarding plans, compiling inventories, digitizing collections), intervention which is possible during the conflicts (financing the transfer of cultural property to safe havens, raising awareness of the fight against illicit trafficking), and projects to restore damaged heritage following conflicts.

The initial target is to raise \$100 million. Contributions from the two founding States, France and the United Arab Emirates, will be supplemented by funding from other volunteer States and private partners.

**France will contribute \$30 million.**

## AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SAFE HAVENS FOR ENDANGERED CULTURAL PROPERTY

The goal of creating an international network of safe havens is to increase international cooperation both to help countries to set up **temporary safe havens on their own territory** but also to provide all necessary guarantees in the event of a **temporary transfer abroad, as a last resort**. Once movable cultural property is under threat from conflicts, a State must have the resources to store it in a safe place.

**The concept of safe havens for endangered cultural property is based on two pillars:**

- **international cooperation to help countries set up safe havens on their own territory** and to carry out preventive measures on the ground (training, inventory, documentation, emergency evacuation plan).
- in the event of extreme emergency situations and as a last resort, **storing items abroad**: it is sometimes necessary for a State to ask another State to take responsibility for safeguarding its cultural property, once it has the necessary guarantees as regards their safety, integrity and swift return.

The procedures to begin evacuating endangered cultural property can be set in motion by a **request for evacuation and temporary storage from a State which owns and wants to deposit property, in which there is clearly armed conflict or a terrorist threat**, or via a resolution from the United Nations Security Council.

Historic precedents have shown such measures to be effective in safeguarding and preserving cultural property:

- the evacuation in **November 1936 of the treasures of the Prado Museum** to safe havens, initially located in Spanish territory (Valencia, Barcelona, Figueres) and then, in February 1939, to Switzerland, by agreement between the Spanish government and the international committee created for the purpose, coordinated by France. The items were repatriated in September 1939.
- the **transfer of masterpieces from Italian museums, particularly in Venice**, to the safe haven of Rocca Ubaldinesca, in Sassocorvaro, Italy, between 1940 and 1945;
- the Afghanistan **“Museum-in-Exile”**: from 1999, ethnological and archaeological artefacts from Afghanistan were deposited in Switzerland under an agreement between UNESCO and the Swiss foundation Bibliotheca Afghantica. They were repatriated in 2007.

**On 1 November 2016, the President of the Republic proposed that the Louvre’s storerooms in Liévin be used as France’s safe haven** based on the law on the freedom of creation, architecture and heritage of 7 July 2016.

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON ENDANGERED HERITAGE  
Abu Dhabi – 2 and 3 December 2016**

**Friday 2 December 2016**

**9:30 - 10 a.m.: Conference Inauguration**

- *Presentation of the initiative by Mr Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak and Mr Jack Lang*
- *Introduction and presentation of existing international initiatives by Irina Bokova, UNESCO DG*

**10 - 10:45 a.m.: Keynote contributors**

- *Azedine Beschaouch, Expert, former Tunisian Minister of Culture, Permanent Scientific Secretary of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor)*
- *Samuel Sidibé, Director of the National Museum of Mali*
- *Mounir Bouchenaki, Expert*

**10:45 -11 a.m.: Break**

**11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. – Round table 1: Preventative actions for safeguarding heritage**

**Session Chair:** *Tom Campbell, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*

**Moderator:** *Anne-Marie Ofeish, Director of the National Museum of Beirut*

**Speakers:**

- *Suay Aksoy, President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)*
- *Dr Zaki Aslan, Regional Representative of ICCROM for the Arab States*
- *Anna Paolini, Director of UNESCO's Regional Office in Doha*
- *Dr Samir Abdulac, Chair of the ICOMOS Working Group for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Syria and Iraq (and neighbouring countries)*
- *Dr Abdulla Al Raisi, UAE National Archives Director General*

**12:30 -2 p.m. – Lunch**

**2 - 3:30 p.m. – Round table 2: Safeguarding cultural heritage in emergency situations**

**Session Chair:** *Mr Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the Louvre Museum*

**Moderator:** *Richard Kurin, Acting Provost and Under Secretary for Museums and Research at the Smithsonian Institution*

**Speakers:**

- *Aldiouma Yattara, Curator of the Sahel Museum in Gao (Mali)*
- *Brigadier General Fabrizio Parrulli, Head of the Carabinieri Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage*
- *Nada AL Hassan, Chief of the Arab States Unit at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee*

- Yves Ubelmann, CEO & Founder of ICONEM
- Roraima A. Andriani, Director for Organized and Emerging Crime, Interpol

**3:30 - 3:45 p.m.: Break**

**3:45 - 5:15 p.m. – Round Table 3: Restoring heritage in post-conflict situations**

**Session Chair:** Alimata Salambéré, former Minister of Culture of Burkina Faso

**Moderator:** Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

**Speakers:**

- Masaaki Miyasako, President of the Japanese committee for safeguarding displaced cultural property and the restoration of damaged artwork
- Ousmane Hallé, Mayor of Timbuktu, accompanied by Thierry Joffroy (CRATerre laboratory),
- Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa Nostra
- Friedericke Fless, President of the German Archaeological Institute
- Michael Danti, American School of Oriental Research

**Saturday 3 December 2016**

**9 a.m.: opening speech** by Audrey Azoulay, French Minister of Culture and Communication

**9:10 - 10 a.m. – Round Table 4: Creation of a worldwide, public-private partnership fund**

**Session Chair:** Saif Ghobash, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority

**Moderator:** Joshua David, President and CEO of World Monuments Fund

**Speakers:**

- Mariët Westermann, Executive Vice President of the Mellon Foundation
- Markus Hilgert, Director of the Pergamon Museum in Berlin
- Gülen Atay Newton, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

**10 -10:45 a.m. – Round table 5: Creation of an international network of safe havens**

**Session Chair:** Laurence Engel, President of the Bibliothèque nationale de France

**Moderator:** France Desmarais, International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS)

**Speakers:**

- Rino Büchel, Head of the Section for the Protection of Cultural Property at the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection
- Jean-Yves Marin, Director of the Museum of Art and History in Geneva.
- Louis Raphaël I Sako, Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans

**11 a.m. – 12 noon: Speeches by the invited Ministers**

**1 – 2 p.m.: Conference closes**

- Speech by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister for Culture, Youth, and Social Development
- Closing remarks by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO
- Closing speech by President François Hollande
- Closing speech by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

- *Adoption of the Declaration of Abu Dhabi in the presence of Heads of State and Government*

## **ORGANIZING the conference**

### **Mr Jack Lang**

Former French Minister of Culture and Minister of Education, and President of the *Institut du monde arabe* (Arab World Institute), Mr Jack Lang was appointed personal representative of the President of the French Republic responsible for organizing the conference.

### **Mr Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak**

Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority (TCA), Mr Mohamed Al Mubarak is the personal representative of the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates responsible for organizing the conference.

### **Mr Hugues Moret**

A career diplomat and former ambassador, Mr Hugues Moret is the Secretary General of the Conference.