From Declaration to Action
Carrying Collaboration Forward

The Busan Declaration is intended not only as a statement of shared principles, but also as a starting point for continued dialogue, knowledge-sharing and cooperation. Following its adoption, the Republic of Korea will seek to support follow-up initiatives that help translate the spirit of the Declaration into practical cooperation within the World Heritage system.

Building on the Declaration's core themes, Korea will continue to work with UNESCO and partners to strengthen policy dialogue, capacity-building and cooperation for the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

These follow-up efforts will be advanced through forums, policy dialogues, workshops, guidance materials, training activities and cooperative initiatives with relevant partners. The areas below highlight key directions through which the spirit of the Busan Declaration will be carried forward in practice.

Follow-up area & Indicative initiatives

Policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing

Regular policy forums, policy reviews, and exchange of emerging issues, good practices and future directions.

Inclusive interpretation and mutual understanding

Guidance, workshops and capacity-building on inclusive, evidence-based and OUV-consistent interpretation and transmission.

Capacity-building and shared responsibility

Regional training, peer-learning and cooperation with countries and regions in need, including South Asia, Africa and SIDS.

Climate resilience and sustainable development

Guidance, toolkits, research and training on climate action, disaster risk preparedness, risk assessment and heritage resilience.

Digital responsibility and future transmission

Responsible digital heritage practices, including AI-supported documentation, digital restoration, data development and ethics-based policy dialogue.

Shared heritage and international cooperation

Cooperation on shared cultural heritage, transnational knowledge exchange and collaborative networks for mutual understanding and peace.

Korea Heritage Service

unesco
Korean National Commission

Busan Declaration

48th Session of
the World Heritage Committee

BUSAN DECLARATION ON WORLD HERITAGE

Busan,
Republic of Korea
19–29 July 2026

Multiple and Interconnected Challenges Call for Collaboration Across Borders, Sectors and Disciplines

BUSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
19–29 JULY 2026
BUSAN, RÉPUBLIQUE DE
CORÉE 19–29 JUILLET 2026
부산,
대한민국
2026
7.19–29

Welcome to Busan

A Shared Direction for World Heritage in an Era of Multiple and Interconnected Challenges

At the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, the Busan Declaration invites the World Heritage community to reflect on how we protect, understand and transmit World Heritage in a rapidly changing world.

More than fifty years after the adoption of the World Heritage Convention, World Heritage remains one of the most important frameworks for international cooperation. It brings States Parties, experts, communities and institutions together around a shared responsibility: to safeguard cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value for present and future generations.

Today, however, the conditions in which World Heritage is protected are becoming more complex. Armed conflict, disasters, climate change, biodiversity loss, social and developmental pressures, and rapid technological change affect heritage places and their communities in different but increasingly connected ways.

In this context, the Busan Declaration looks to the future of World Heritage cooperation. Prepared through consultation with experts, Committee Member States, Advisory Bodies and partner institutions, it seeks to reaffirm the spirit of the Convention while encouraging more coherent, inclusive and forward-looking action across the World Heritage system.



What the Busan Declaration Brings Together

World Heritage connects us to places and landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value and to the memories they hold. Safeguarding this value today requires more than responding to each challenge in isolation. The Busan Declaration therefore sets out five key directions for a more integrated approach, grounded in a simple idea:

World Heritage is better protected when people, institutions and knowledge work together across boundaries.

- **Strengthening implementation through collaboration**
  Promoting credible, coherent and effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention through cooperation across countries, institutions, sectors and levels of governance.
- **Interpreting heritage responsibly and inclusively**
  Supporting interpretation, presentation and transmission that are participatory and evidence-based, grounded in Outstanding Universal Value and informed by a range of relevant perspectives.
- **Sharing stewardship and responsibility**
  Recognizing the complementary roles of States Parties, site managers, communities, Indigenous Peoples, knowledge holders, experts and relevant stakeholders in safeguarding and transmitting World Heritage.
- **Connecting heritage, nature and climate resilience**
  Advancing integrated approaches that consider cultural and natural heritage, biodiversity, climate action, disaster preparedness and sustainable development together.
- **Advancing digital responsibility**
  Encouraging accurate, inclusive, ethical and accountable uses of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, while safeguarding rights, knowledge and transmission to future generations.

At the heart of the Busan Declaration is Collaboration.

Conservation protects value.
Credibility builds trust.
Capacity-building enables action.
Communication broadens understanding.
Communities sustain heritage.
Collaboration brings them together.