

## STATUTES OF THE UNITWIN NETWORK FOR UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

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**Considering** that one of the essential factors favouring development in maritime and underwater archaeology is the exchange of experience and knowledge, especially between universities;

**Convinced** that collaborative work between university lecturers, researchers and administrators from different regions across the world will benefit the entire academic community;

**Bearing in mind** UNESCO's mission and objectives as set forth in its Constitution, and the role of UNESCO in promoting inter-university cooperation at an international level;

**Bearing in mind** the principles and ethics of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;

**Taking into account** the experience of UNESCO's international UNITWIN Chairs Programme as a stimulus to the rapid transfer of knowledge through twinning, networking and other linking arrangements;

UNESCO and the first four Network Members created a UNESCO/UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology in the framework of UNESCO's UNITWIN Chairs Programme on 29 October 2012.

Its Statutes shall be as follows:

### Article 1 - Functions

1. The UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology (hereinafter "**the Network**") aims to increase capacity through international cooperation. It shall enhance the protection and research of underwater cultural heritage, by connecting in a formal way universities working in the field of maritime and underwater archaeology. It shall moreover act as a bridge between the academic world, civil society, local communities, research and policy-makers.
2. The Network shall seek to support the efforts of the UNESCO Secretariat of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage ("hereinafter "**the Convention**").

3. The main objectives of the Network are to:

- a. promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities in the field of archaeology related to underwater cultural heritage and related disciplines;
- b. create an academic training network tasked to harmonize teaching programmes and materials to a complementary standard; promote joint field schools, distance learning and common postgraduate courses; foster faculty and student mobility and support a common scholarship system; and facilitate exchange of technical equipment;
- c. set up a common web portal to facilitate knowledge and information sharing and the creation of a virtual community;
- d. organize regional and international conferences and seminars to promote the discipline and advance innovative research, as well as annual thematic meetings of the Network;
- e. carry out joint research projects to enhance understanding of the status of underwater cultural heritage worldwide;
- f. foster research, development, exchange and harmonization of databases and inventories addressing different aspects of underwater cultural heritage;
- g. encourage inter-university cooperation through the transfer of knowledge, reinforce the dynamism of existing academic and professional networks and strengthen North-South cooperation;
- h. act as a bridge between the academic world, civil society, local communities, NGOs, and research and policy-makers, promoting awareness of underwater cultural heritage and influencing cultural heritage policies.

## **Article 2 - Membership**

Universities or similar academic teaching institutions, which offer a full degree course in maritime or underwater archaeology, be it at graduate or postgraduate level, within a recognized and accredited academic framework, may become a member of the Network (hereinafter “**Member**”).

## **Article 3 - Associate Membership**

An institution can apply to become an associate member (hereinafter “**Associate Member**”) when it, while not having a full degree course in maritime or underwater archaeology, delivers courses or carries out training or research in the field, within a recognized and accredited academic framework and is working in compliance with the principles of the Convention.

#### **Article 4 – Recognized Partners**

Governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) having activities related to underwater archaeology, as well as centres of research, may apply to become a recognized partner of the Network (hereinafter “**Recognized Partner**”).

#### **Article 5 – Accredited Observers**

The UNESCO UNITWIN Network may decide to consult and collaborate with other universities, governmental organizations and competent non-governmental organizations, in particular NGOs accredited by the Meeting of States Parties of the Convention, relating to activities within the scope of the Network.

#### **Article 6 – UNESCO Representation**

The Director-General of UNESCO or his/her representative may participate in the work of the Meeting. He/she may, at any time, make either oral or written statements on any question under discussion.

#### **Article 7 – Admission Procedure**

1. Institutions wishing to become Member, Associate Member, Recognized Partner or Observer of the Network shall apply through a written request, signed by the authorized representative of the institution.
2. The application letter shall be accompanied by a summary description of the Institution’s activities, achievements and programmes in the field of maritime or underwater archaeology, including a detailed programme outline and course descriptions.
3. Decisions on Membership, Associated Membership, Recognized Partnership and Observers are made on the basis of a full application by the majority vote of the Network Members. Decisions will be made within a reasonable time, not normally exceeding six months. A declaration of support from the National Commission for UNESCO of the concerned country may be requested by the Network’s Chair Holder.

#### **Article 8 - Coordinating Institution and Coordinator**

1. The institution, which shall coordinate the Network (hereinafter “**Coordinating Institution**”), shall be elected for a period of three years by a simple majority of all the Network Members.

2. Three months before the termination of the Coordinating Institution's term a new Coordinating Institution shall be elected by the Network Members
3. The coordinating institution shall designate a responsible coordinator (hereinafter "**Coordinator**").
4. The Coordinating Institution shall:
  - a. coordinate the work of the Network;
  - b. organize the meetings and order of business of each meeting;
  - c. report on the Network activities annually to the UNESCO UNITWIN Programme Secretariat as well as to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body of the 2001 Convention; and
  - d. archive the information and data generated by the Network.
5. The Coordinator shall
  - a. open and close each meeting;
  - b. direct the discussions and ensure observance of these Statutes;
  - c. accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions; and
  - d. control the proceedings and the maintenance of order.

#### **Article 9 - Meetings**

1. The Network meets once a year. The coordinator convenes the meeting and drafts the Agenda. He/she will consult and inform the other members and UNESCO.
2. In addition to Members, Associate members, Recognized Partners, experts or representatives of organizations, whose duties and qualifications make them suitable for assisting the Network, may be invited to a meeting.
3. The Network members may convene an extraordinary meeting.

#### **Article 10 - Public Nature of Meetings**

Meetings shall generally be held in public unless decided otherwise by the Network Members.

#### **Article 11 - Quorum**

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Network Members.

2. If no quorum is present at the meeting decisions must be deferred to an electronic vote, which will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.
3. Throughout the year decisions can be made on the basis of full consensus between the members, arrived at through electronic consultation.

#### **Article 12 - Official languages**

1. The official language of the Meeting shall be English.
2. Speakers may, however, speak in any other language, provided that they make their own arrangements for interpretation of their speeches.

#### **Article 13 - Voting and Elections**

1. Each Member shall have one vote. Associate Members and Recognized Partners have no right to vote.
2. Decisions and recommendations shall be adopted by consensus, or, if no consensus emerges, by majority vote of the Network Members..
3. Voting shall be by a show of hands or by electronic means.
4. Members not responding to an electronic vote within a reasonable period of time, not exceeding 30 days, will be considered to have abstained from voting,
5. Secret ballots can be requested by a Network Member(s).

#### **Article 14 - Funding**

Network members shall endeavour to raise appropriate funding for the Network. UNESCO shall make all reasonable efforts to identify funding from regular and extra budgetary sources, and support funding applications of the Network where appropriate.

#### **Article 15 – Amendments and Suspension**

1. The Statutes of the Network may be amended by the Network Members upon majority vote.
2. The regulations of these Statutes may be suspended by a decision of the Network Members taken by a two-thirds majority of the Members.

## **Article 16 – Changes to Membership Status**

1. Membership status is ongoing provided that Members and Partners continue to comply with requirements of the Network (Articles 2 – 5).
2. Members, Associate Members, Partners and Observers may voluntarily resign from the Network; the Coordinator will formally contact the institutional leadership to inform them of any changes within 30 days of a decision.
3. Members, Associate Members, Partners and Observers may request to be considered for another level of Membership; the Coordinator will formally contact the institutional leadership to inform them of any changes within 30 days of a decision.
4. Members, Associate Members, Partners and Observers who do not comply with requirements of membership (Articles 2 – 5), or are found by the Network to be in conflict with the statutes and values of the Network may be suspended or removed by a decision of the Network Members taken by a two-thirds majority of the Members; the Coordinator will formally contact the institutional leadership to inform them of any changes within 30 days of a decision.