



УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ КОМІТЕТ МІЖНАРОДНОЇ РАДИ З ПИТАНЬ ПАМ'ЯТОК І ВИЗНАЧНИХ МІСЦЬ  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
COMITÉ NATIONAL UKRAINIEN DU CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES

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**STATEMENT**  
**by the Ukrainian National Committee**  
**of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)**  
**regarding the threat of destruction of the World Heritage Site**  
**"Kyiv: Saint Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic**  
**Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra"**

Recognising the exceptional importance of Ukraine's cultural heritage as an integral part of the world's cultural heritage, and understanding the scale of the threats posed by the Russian Federation's armed aggression against Ukraine, the Ukrainian National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) considers it necessary to make this Statement.

St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv is an outstanding 11th-century monument included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and is a unique testimony to the cultural, spiritual and architectural development of the peoples of Eastern Europe and, at the same time, a cultural heritage of all humanity.

As a result of another massive missile attack by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on 10 June 2025, the cornice and plasterwork of the central apse of the eastern facade of St. Sophia Cathedral were damaged by the blast wave. This incident once again demonstrates the aggressor state's disregard for international humanitarian law and, in particular, international legal acts governing relations in the field of preserving world cultural heritage, both in peacetime and in conditions of armed conflict.

It should be noted that in the 1930s, the Bolshevik authorities implemented a policy of deliberate destruction of the cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people. In Kyiv alone, more than sixty monuments were destroyed, including buildings of religious significance to the city. One of the most painful losses of that period was the destruction of St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral, an outstanding 12th-century holy building that had been not only a religious but also a cultural centre of Ukrainian statehood for centuries. During the dismantling, priceless mosaics and frescoes were lost, some of them were barbarically destroyed, and some were taken away or irretrievably lost. Such criminal acts were aimed at the final eradication of the historical memory of the Ukrainian people and the elimination of the material symbols of their spirituality.

This policy continues today. According to official information, more than a thousand cultural heritage sites of both local and national level have been damaged in Ukraine as a result of the Russian Federation's armed aggression. In addition to St. Sophia Cathedral, other world heritage sites are also under threat of destruction, including the historic centres of Odesa, Lviv, Chernihiv, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi – Akkerman Fortress, as well as DERZHYPROM (House of State Industry) in Kharkiv, that was seriously damaged in 2023 and 2024.

Today's acts of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine's cultural heritage, in particular the shelling of St. Sophia Cathedral and other monuments, are a continuation of the process of cultural terror that began during the Soviet era. The current damage to St. Sophia Cathedral, as a world heritage site, poses a threat not only to Ukrainian national identity, but also to the cultural diversity of all humanity.

Considering the above, in particular the intensification of missile strikes on Ukraine and the provisions of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Ukrainian National Committee of ICOMOS appeals to the international community to join efforts to preserve and protect Ukraine's cultural heritage, given that damage to such objects causes irreparable harm to the humanistic spirit of humanity and its cultural diversity.

**Bureau of the Ukrainian National Committee  
of the International Council on Monuments and Sites**