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CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS

Vahagn Khachaturyan
President of the Republic of Armenia

Nikol Pashinyan
Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

Zhanna Andreasyan
Minister
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (MoESCS)

Department for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments

Yeghiazar Vardanyan
Chairperson
Urban Development Committee
of the Republic of Armenia

Martín Eurnekian
Chief Executive Officer
Armenia International Airports CJSC
(Local Concession Operator)

Eduardo Eurnekian
Armenia International Airports CJSC /
Corporación América Airports

Head of Investor Relations
Armenia International Airports CJSC /
Corporación América Airports

Tigran Avinyan
Mayor
Yerevan Municipality

Our Ref.: GS/GJ/139

Paris, 23 November 2026

Subject: ICOMOS Heritage Alert - Zvartnots International Airport Old Terminal Building, Yerevan, Armenia

Dear Prime Minister, Your Excellencies,

ICOMOS and its International Scientific Committee on Twentieth-Century Heritage (ISC20C) are alarmed by the threat facing the original passenger terminal of Zvartnots International Airport (opened in 1981) - a landmark of Soviet-era socialist modernism and a significant twentieth-century heritage place in Armenia.

For this reason, ICOMOS is issuing a Heritage Alert for this building to raise awareness of its national and international significance and the importance of its retention and conservation.
Through this Heritage Alert, ICOMOS makes the following recommendations:

- Retain and enforce the protected status of the Zvartnots International Airport Old Terminal Building under Government of Armenia Decision No. N 1616-Ն of 07 October 2004 and the Law on the Preservation and Use of Immovable Monuments of History and Culture and the Historical Environment (No. ՀՕ-261, 12 December 1998);

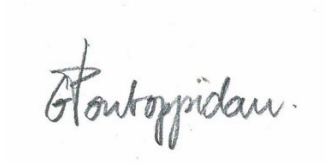
- Prohibit any demolition or partial dismantling of the terminal building or its control tower, including the proposed demolition of the outer departures ring, and refuse any permits that would result in the irretrievable loss of the site or its defining elements;
- Publish the technical and seismic assessments and commission an independent structural and condition survey subject to professional scrutiny;
- Require a full Heritage Impact Assessment of any proposed redevelopment, expansion or alteration before approval, and make no decision on demolition, partial demolition, delisting or major alteration until the assessment is complete and independently reviewed;
- Require a maintenance and making-safe strategy to halt the building's continued decay, pending a full conservation scheme;
- Ensure that the airport redevelopment retains and conserves the site through adaptive reuse and preservation that respects its architectural and functional values;
- Safeguard the building's integrated artworks, including the cast light-alloy relief and the stained-glass panels;
- Develop a strategic plan to understand, recognize, and protect Zvartnots International Airport. This should include public engagement to foster broader recognition of the cultural significance of Zvartnots' socialist modernist heritage within Armenian society.

For further support in implementing these recommendations, we suggest contacting ICOMOS Armenia (icomosarm@gmail.com). ISC20C is also available to support ICOMOS Armenia in any actions to promote and conserve this building.

This Heritage Alert will be published on the ICOMOS website (https://www.icomos.org/en/get-involved/inform-us/heritage-alert).

Yours sincerely,





Gráinne Shaffrey
President of ICOMOS

Grethe Pontoppidan,
Co-President
ICOMOS International Scientific
Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a non-governmental, not for profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C) focuses on promoting the conservation of twentieth-century places and advocating for sites that are at risk due to neglect, disfiguration and/or development pressure. www.icomos.org

Sent to :

Vahagn Khachaturyan
President of the Republic of Armenia
26 Baghramyan Avenue, Yerevan 0019, Armenia
secretariat@president.am

Nikol Pashinyan
Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia
Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia
Government House 1, Republic Square, Yerevan 0010, Republic of Armenia
chiefofstaff@gov.am (Lilit Makunts, Chief of Staff)

Zhanna Andreasyan
Minister
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (MoESCS)
Government House 2, 3 Vazgen Sargsyan Street, Yerevan 0010, Armenia
zhanna.andreasyan@escs.am

Department for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments
Government House 2, 3 Vazgen Sargsyan Street, Yerevan 0010, Armenia
info@escs.am

Yeghiazar Vardanyan
Chairperson
Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia
info@minurban.am

Martín Eurnekian
Chief Executive Officer
Armenia International Airports CJSC (Local Concession Operator)
AIA Building, Zvartnots International Airport, 0042, Yerevan, Republic
of Armenia
info@aia-zvartnots.aero

Eduardo Eurnekian
Armenia International Airports CJSC / Corporación América Airports
Bonpland 1745, C1414 CABA, Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
info@corporacionamerica.com

Head of Investor Relations
Armenia International Airports CJSC / Corporación América Airports
patricio.esnaola@caairports.com

Tigran Avinyan
Mayor
Yerevan Municipality
1 Argishti Street, Yerevan 0015, Armenia
info@yerevan.am