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Организация
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector
Division for Heritage

H. E. Mr Jose Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of Peru to UNESCO
UNESCO House

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20 June 2016

Dear Ambassador,

I am pleased to inform you that the World Heritage Centre has received from ICOMOS International the technical review concerning interventions in some archaeological complexes, and in particular, the construction of the Sheraton Hotel located in Saphy Street, within the **City of Cuzco**, property inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983 under criteria (iii) and (iv).

Please find attached, for your kind attention, the complete above-mentioned ICOMOS technical review with specific recommendations which I would like to reiterate.

While acknowledging the efforts and actions taken by national and local authorities, especially the Provincial Municipality of Cuzco, to stop the works of the hotel in order to protect the *Outstanding Universal Value* (OUV) of the property, ICOMOS International deeply regrets that such a large-scale project was not submitted for review at the design stages so that appropriate recommendations were provided prior to granting approval and begin a construction project that is highly detrimental to the property.

Furthermore, it was highlighted that the physical attributes that embody the OUV of the property define a coherent urban structure and landscape that result from an unusual syncretism in universal history. The delicate relationship between the components of this archaeological, architectural and urban ensemble is extremely fragile and demands rigorous protection, as prescribed in the management and regulatory frameworks.

As a conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the construction of the Four Seasons Hotel seriously impacts the attributes of the OUV of the property, and significantly erodes its conditions of authenticity and integrity. This considerable impact will continue to exist as long as the construction, with its current seven floors, is still standing. Thus it was noted that the generated loss to archaeological remains needs to be thoroughly examined so that compensation measures are clearly established.

ICOMOS finally recommends that the State Party support, by all means possible, the Provincial Municipality of Cuzco in their efforts to immediately halt any further works and to begin the necessary procedures so that the levels already constructed above the two floors maximum height allowed in all sectors of the Historic Centre are demolished. This measure is considered by ICOMOS as the only possible solution at this stage to reverse the detrimental and considerable impact on the attributes of OUV of the property and on its conditions of authenticity and integrity, all crucial elements that warranted the inscription of the City of Cuzco on the World Heritage list.

Taking into consideration the importance of this issue, I would be most grateful if you could keep the World Heritage Centre informed about any follow-up actions taken by the State Party with regard to the implementation of the above recommendations.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and for your support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mechtild Rössler
Director
World Heritage Centre

cc: Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO
Ms Ana María Hoyle Montalva, National Focal Point for Cultural sites
ICOMOS International
UNESCO Lima Office