

Media Advisory

DOCUMENTING OUR HERITAGE AT RISK

**ROME, PALAZZO POLI (TREVI FOUNTAIN), 19 MAY
EX PLANETARIO, TERME DI DIOCLEZIANO, 20 MAY**

Uniting the international community around a project of universal cataloguing for artistic and archaeological heritage. Facilitating the classification of cultural heritage at risk. Promoting the convergence of scientific techniques and shared adoption of advanced technologies, under the stewardship of UNESCO and with the empowerment of ICCROM (an intergovernmental organization specializing in cultural heritage conservation, with headquarters in Rome), in view of upcoming restorations and reconstructions.

These are the goals of the International Conference "Documenting our Heritage at Risk", organized by the *Incontro di Civiltà* Association, chaired by Francesco Rutelli, and ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) on 19-20 May in Rome, thanks to the essential contribution of the *Fondazione Terzo Pilastro – Italia e Mediterraneo* and its President, Prof. Emmanuele F. M. Emanuele, as well as the contribution of Fouad Alghanim & Sons Group of Companies.

The first day at Palazzo Poli, Dante Room, is organized into three sessions. Panels of experts from the academic and scientific worlds representing art and innovation will share their different experiences, including in conflict areas, along with projects of heritage requalification and local development.

Amongst the speakers will be the Minister of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, Dario Franceschini; UNESCO Assistant Director General for Culture, Francesco Bandarin; UNESCO Special Advisor for Cultural Heritage, Mounir Bouchenaki; Deputy Mayor of Rome and Culture Councilor, Luca Bergamo; and representatives of the most prominent international scientific institutions and companies involved in these sectors (see attached programme).

A delegation of participants will be received by the Prime Minister of Italy, Paolo Gentiloni.

At the end of the session on 20 May, an international call will be approved: the **Rome Agreement on Documentation of Endangered Cultural Heritage / Accordo di Roma sulla Documentazione del Patrimonio Culturale a rischio**.

"After the campaign to counter cultural heritage destruction in ongoing conflicts, and the exhibit at the Colosseum entitled Rebirth from Destructions – Ebla, Ebla, Palmyra (with over 300,000 visitors between

October and December 2016), this conference sets for the basis for jointly addressing major threats, including wars, natural disasters and the effects of climate change, starting from the cataloguing of heritage at risk," stated the President of the *Incontro di Civiltà* association, Francesco Rutelli. "The next steps can only be restoration and reconstruction done on a scientific basis and with the widest possible sharing."

"The Fondazione Terzo Pilastro – Italia e Mediterraneo has always favoured dialogue and fruitful exchange with Middle and Near Eastern traditions, in view of bridging differences and healing wounds through the power of culture. It must now position itself on the forefront of the international political and diplomatic debate on these issues," said Prof. Emmanuele FM Emanuele, President of the *Fondazione Terzo Pilastro – Italia e Mediterraneo*. "To sensitize international public opinion on a matter of worldwide interest, to keep alive the memory of ancient civilizations targeted by iconoclastic fury, is an inalienable moral duty, until such time as the heritage can be reconstructed in situ. This is precisely what I propose to do through the Third Pillar Foundation, I hope in the near future."

"Documentation plays a crucial role in ensuring the longevity of endangered cultural heritage, creating the basis, if needed, for its possible reconstruction," stated ICCROM's Director-General, Stefano De Caro. "When it comes to safeguarding heritage in danger, ICCROM stands ready to facilitate dialogue between the key players and build capacities on the ground."

The "Documenting our Heritage at Risk" conference has received the High Patronage of the Presidency of the Republic as well as the patronage of UNESCO.

Admission to the conference is by invitation only. The press may request accreditation at: segreteria@incontrodiciviltà.it

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