

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO)

Country: Ukraine

Agenda Item: Addressing Illicit Trafficking and Protection of Cultural Property



Ukraine is a country located in Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Known for its vast and fertile agricultural lands, the country has a geography shaped by flat plains and rivers. Its population is approximately 40 million. In addition, Ukraine's official name changed simply to Ukraine after the independence of Ukraine had been declared in 1991. Ukraine is a multi-party state governed by a republic; the head of state is the president, elected by the people. The country's politics in the post-independence period have been shaped around goals of integration with Europe, the democratization process, and security issues.

Ukraine advocates the preservation of cultural heritage as a fundamental element of national identity and historical continuity. Illegal trade in cultural property increases significantly, particularly during periods of armed conflict and political instability. Museums, archaeological sites, religious buildings, and historical artifacts are at risk of looting and smuggling. Ukraine argues that illegal trade in cultural property represents not only a material loss but also a threat to a people's cultural memory. Therefore, under the auspices of UNESCO, it supports the strengthening of international law concerning the protection of cultural property and increased interstate cooperation.

Ukraine regularly discusses preventive and cooperative approaches to the protection of cultural heritage. Maintaining the digital resilience of cultural property inventories, documenting at-risk items, and ensuring their traceability are significant parts to tackle this issue. Additionally, modifications to border controls, training of customs and law enforcement personnel are advocated. Ukraine emphasizes the importance of expanding technical support, sharing, and capacity-building programs through UNESCO to effectively promote the protection of cultural heritage.

Delegate of Ukraine

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/trafico-ilicito-bienes-culturales>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166368>

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ua>