



Position Paper of Japan



Country : Japan

**Committee : UNESCO – United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Topic : Addressing Illicit Trafficking and Protection of Cultural Property

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As the government of Japan, we recognise that cultural property is the common heritage of humanity. Under the law for the protection of cultural properties, our national government thus designates, selects and registers the most important cultural properties as national treasures, Important cultural properties, historic sites, places of scenic beauty or natural monuments and imposes restrictions on exports and activities that affect their existing state. Furthermore, our national government takes various measures to protect cultural properties by providing subsidies for preservation, repairing, building disaster-proof facilities or public ownership of historic sites.

While safeguarding cultural property within national borders is essential, these efforts remain incomplete without addressing the illegal movement of cultural objects across borders. Illicit trafficking poses a serious threat to cultural heritage worldwide, undermining international cooperation and the effectiveness of protection mechanisms. At the G-7 (Group Seven) Ise Shima Summit, Japan highlighted the threat posed by the destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural property, particularly its connection to terrorist financing. Japan emphasized international cooperation, the use of INTERPOL databases and collaboration with the private sector, while also showcasing advanced technologies for preserving and reproducing lost cultural heritage. This reaffirmed Japan's commitment to combating illicit trafficking and protecting cultural property worldwide.

We strongly support the protection of cultural property and the fight against illicit trafficking. Cultural heritage belongs to all humanity and must be preserved for future generations. Japan emphasizes the need for international cooperation, information sharing, and the use of global tools such as UNESCO and INTERPOL. Through national laws and active participation in international discussions, Japan remains committed to working with other countries to prevent illegal trade and protect cultural heritage worldwide.

Resources:

www.mofa.go.jp
www.geidai.ac.jp
www.interpol.int
www.unesco.org
www.bunka.go.jp