



Committee: SPECPOL (The Special Political and Decolonization Committee)

Country: Austria

Agenda Item: Administration of Cultural Heritage

The Republic of Austria believes cultural heritage is an important part of both national identity and common human history. Cultural heritage consists of tangible monuments, intangible traditions, and natural sites which require careful handling. Austria supports countries working together through UNESCO and supports governments protecting their own cultural heritage. Effective protection depends on transparency, expert knowledge, and preventive methods instead of reacting after destruction occurs.

Austria firmly rejects looting, vandalism, and the intentional destruction of cultural heritage especially when fighting breaks out. Taking action before any damage happens, educating people, and accurate communication between countries are necessary to face these threats. Regarding mislocated artefacts, Austria believes in solutions based on discussion, international agreements, and confirmed provenance. Illegally removed artefacts should be returned by negotiation. Cooperative alternatives such as temporary sharing and joint exhibitions can be a reasonable way to solve unclear cases.

Austria also points out the importance of inclusivity in cultural heritage management. Local and native communities should be seriously involved in decisions about their heritage. In addition, Austria stands behind well-planned tourism policies that protect heritage sites and help local development. Finally, Austria acknowledges contemporary art as part of the future cultural heritage and encourages rules that respect both artists and cultural values.