



CÍRCULO STATEMENT. SAFETY IN HERITAGE:

Safety in the use, management, maintenance and conservation of cultural heritage.

Preamble.

The participants in the International Scientific Symposium, organized by Kalam together with EKABA Foundation and held in the city of Madrid on the 7th, 8th and 9th of May 2019, after debating on Cultural Heritage and Safety have approved, in their plenary session of the 9th of May 2019, the Círculo Statement, a document that sets out criteria on Cultural Heritage and Safety.

The scope of the present statement encompasses all cultural heritage, with particular focus on built heritage.

Object of the Document.

Cultural heritage constitutes a shared legacy that must be preserved as a human right and enjoyed by society as a whole. However, due to the fragile nature and the vulnerable character of cultural assets, these face many risks, of natural as well as human origin. Hence, appropriate measures and strategies must be adopted by public administrations, as well as by other public and private entities, owners and society in general with a view to preserving this collective wealth from the risks it faces, so it can be passed on to the coming generations in a sustainable way.

All of them must identify, protect, preserve and ensure access to cultural assets under safe conditions. The right of access to knowledge on and enjoyment of cultural heritage must always be compatible with the need to ensure appropriate safety conditions, with a view to protecting both the cultural assets themselves and the public.

Safety measures regarding access and mobility in cultural assets should include visitors, transients and workers, as well as cultural asset managers.

The Círculo Statement is addressed to all government bodies, private entities, companies, professionals and technical experts working on the protection, research, conservation, restoration, documentation and dissemination of any kind of cultural heritage. It is also addressed to society in general, with the aim of raising awareness among citizens about their rights and obligations, ensuring they can be properly exercised and claimed.

In drafting this document we have taken into account the charters, conventions and recommendations on these subjects issued by international bodies, including the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its two Protocols, the Venice Charter (1964), the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit

Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Vantaa Declaration (2000), the Charter of Krakow (2000), the Charter of Florence (2000), the Charter Nizhny Tagil on Industrial Heritage (2003), the Faro Convention (2005), the Madrid Document (2011), the Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas (2011), Resolution 2347 of the United Nations Security Council (2017), the Davos Declaration (2018) or UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (2015).

PART ONE. GENERAL ASPECTS

Safe Enjoyment of Heritage

Article 1. Cultural heritage should be provided with adequate safety conditions.

Cultural heritage is a collective legacy whose assets bear witness to history, the creation of humanity, its way of living and of interrelating with each other. Its value derives from the appreciation of such cultural assets by society. Cultural heritage should be accessible to citizens under safe conditions without compromising the preservation of its values.

When undertaking any documentation, research, maintenance, conservation, restoration, training or dissemination work, appropriate steps must always be taken to ensure the safety of the individuals and cultural assets involved.

Article 2. Prevention is necessary to improve safety and avoid damage to individuals and assets.

The adoption of suitable prevention measures can avoid irreparable damage to assets, harm to individuals, as well as costly subsequent interventions.

For every cultural asset, it is advisable to draw up a specific management plan with guidelines for risk prevention, long-term maintenance, conservation, an appropriate use always under safety conditions, as well as appropriate prevention measures, including recommendations for procedures and evacuation measures in the event of an emergency, and any additional actions required to ensure safety in heritage.

For this reason, all those institutions that hold, guard and/or exhibit, works, documents, books or unique elements with recognized value, it is necessary to have a prevention plan for the protection of these assets in emergency situations.

Article 3. Every action on a cultural asset is an opportunity for improving safety.

Every maintenance action or intervention on a cultural asset represents a valuable opportunity to enhance the level of safety of the asset itself and of the persons viewing, enjoying, preserving or managing it.

The measures implemented should go beyond those required by the applicable legislation and should be the most suitable in every particular case to ensure the safety of individuals and the conservation of the cultural assets involved.

Depending on the investment in the action, it would be advisable to allocate a gradual percentage of it, to the study and detection of security-related problems and, where appropriate, their total or partial solution.

Training and Social Participation

Article 4. It is necessary to provide appropriate information, training and technical qualifications to all individuals taking part in cultural heritage maintenance, conservation, management, interpretation and dissemination activities.

Cultural heritage documentation, protection, conservation, restoration and management work must be carried out by individuals holding suitable professional qualifications, experience and information for the tasks entrusted to them. Certain kinds of work call for specialised training and an interdisciplinary strategy.

Specific training is also recommended for professionals who fall outside the cultural heritage field, but have a role during emergency situations.

Article 5. Heritage education and the communication and dissemination of cultural heritage are highly important activities.

It is very important to include content relating to the meaning, the appreciation, the preservation and the enjoyment of cultural heritage in curricula at all levels of education. Such heritage education should be interdisciplinary, participational, of high quality and capable of raising awareness. This calls for coordinated efforts by teachers and heritage managers, including imparting suitable skills to teachers and developing specific educational materials.

It likewise calls for disseminating and providing information to society as a whole on the heritage value of cultural assets, facilitating access to knowledge and the reporting of the studies, research, and conservation and restoration work carried out on such assets.

Article 6. Suitable channels and instruments of social collaboration and participation must be developed.

The enormous broadening of the concept of cultural heritage has meant that it is increasingly difficult for government bodies to cover heritage protection, conservation and management needs without the collaboration and participation of private institutions and members of society.

Therefore, suitable instruments and channels must be developed to ensure coordination, information, communication and participation in cultural heritage protection and conservation tasks by institutions, companies, associations and the general public.

PART TWO. SAFETY OF TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

A Cultural Heritage under Threat

Article 7. Cultural heritage is fragile and vulnerable.

Cultural heritage is made up by assets of a highly varied nature and very diverse origins, including assets whose maintenance is difficult to accomplish and which require special conditions for their preservation.

Article 8. The risks faced by cultural heritage are many and very diverse.

Cultural heritage is exposed to a wide range of threats with very diverse origins: damage caused by natural disasters; damage caused by unfavourable environmental conditions; damage due to biodeterioration; and human-induced damage, due to negligence in surveillance or control activities, the lack of maintenance, or in the development of an intervention, among others.

Article 9. Suitably planned management of cultural heritage is required.

Government bodies must make provision for the protection, conservation and maintenance of cultural assets through a suitably planned long-term management strategy, which must include suitable legislation, effective public services and the adoption of appropriate scientific, technical, cultural and other measures aimed at achieving such purpose, as well as properly applying the law. Any conservation strategy should be regularly reviewed and revised to ensure sustainability over time.

Suitable coordination, joint action and collaboration between the various public and private bodies and entities are required to ensure appropriate conservation of the cultural heritage. The owners of cultural assets must cooperate towards the attainment of such goals and provide access to the cultural assets under safe conditions.

Safety Instruments for Cultural Heritage

Article 10. Maintenance measures must be implemented and a preventive conservation strategy adopted.

Proper conservation of cultural assets needs clear criteria, a professionalized process and extraordinary sensitivity, as well as planning regular maintenance work to prevent or minimise risks and ensure optimal conservation conditions. Such maintenance activities must be set out in a maintenance plan or master plan.

Preventive conservation is a cultural heritage conservation strategy involving the identification, assessment, monitoring and early detection of deterioration risks in order to eliminate or minimise such risks, addressing problems at their source in an effective and economical manner, thereby avoiding the need for costly interventions.

The preventive conservation approach is based on the assessment of cultural assets, their state of conservation and their use and management, together with the evaluation of existing risks, with the objective of designing, planning and scheduling monitoring and control methods allowing the use and management of assets compatible with the conservation of their values.

Article 11. Prevention and persecution of spoliation and illicit traffic in cultural assets.

Government bodies must prevent, avoid, prosecute and punish the spoliation of and illicit traffic in cultural assets. This calls for reinforcing control and surveillance measures and creating or improving cultural asset inventories and catalogues, through the use of text, graphic and photographic documentation. Such documentation should be georeferenced whenever possible, and easily available to heritage managers and the competent authorities.

Moreover, suitable legislation and legal instruments must be put in place to regulate the import and export of cultural assets in accordance with current international rules, and create the necessary technical and administrative units, endowing them with suitable material and appropriate human resources to prevent the spoliation of and illicit traffic in cultural assets.

It is advisable to set up specialised police units to prevent and persecute unlawful activities involving cultural assets and carry out to collaborate closely with other agents who could assist them in this task, and to develop training programs and actions on the valuation, protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage.

Article 12. Disasters, both natural and anthropic, must be prevented.

All existing risks, of natural or anthropic origin, with a potential to seriously affect cultural assets, as well as the likelihood of their occurrence, must be identified.

Disaster prevention includes adopting cultural asset protection measures, ensuring proper coordination with civil protection and other emergency response organisations, planning suitable intervention mechanisms, methods and protocols in case of risk, providing specialist training to technical experts and volunteers, and raising awareness among society about the importance of prevention and prompt response in the event of a disaster.

In addition, a georeferenced catalogue of cultural assets must be available.

PART THREE. SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE USE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Safe Access to Cultural Heritage

Article 13. Cultural heritage should be accessible to all persons without compromising their conservation.

Suitable steps aimed at ensuring non-discriminatory, independent and safe access to cultural assets for all individuals, including those suffering from some form of disability, must be taken.

Whenever this is possible without compromising the conservation of the asset involved and its heritage values, suitable solutions should be implemented to allow the associated communal spaces and services and related information to be used and accessed in the most inclusive and safe manner possible.

Access should be controlled, as far as possible, to prevent damage to heritage.

Article 14. Where ensuring physical accessibility is not possible, substitute accessibility solutions must be contemplated.

In those cases where accessibility is incompatible with the conservation of the asset, or is not effective or feasible, or represents an undue burden, alternative measures allowing substitute accessibility may be contemplated.

Modern technologies broaden the scope for assuring accessibility to and acquaintance with the asset without compromising its conservation. Recent advances in the fields of 3D modelling and viewing, laser, scanning and printing, immersive experience, faithful reproductions, etc. make possible the enjoyment of a cultural asset through a real or virtual recreation whenever access to the actual asset is not feasible or advisable.

Article 15. Suitable signage comprehensible to everyone, relating to the accessibility of the asset, must be available.

To facilitate the use and access to cultural assets under safe conditions and in the most inclusive and independent possible manner, the design and the implementation of a signage project, together with appropriate additional pertinent information, becomes especially important in order to explicitly display recommendations and alert to any risks to which visitors may be exposed when touring and using the asset. This will ensure that users are suitably informed regarding accessibility and in a position to decide whether at any time a certain section or area of the cultural asset is not suitable for them.

It is advisable to always use internationally recognised standard codes to ensure the signs can be understood by all.

Safety and Inhabitability

Article 16. The durability and structural stability of cultural heritage will be guaranteed.

The proper design, execution and maintenance of the structural elements of a building constitute an issue of prime importance to ensure its conservation and the safety of users.

Both during the design and execution stages of any intervention and during the maintenance, conservation, restoration or rehabilitation of the asset, the durability, the resistance and the stability of structural elements must be assured, as well as their suitability for their current or intended application. Otherwise, access should be forbidden.

Building materials and construction techniques used during interventions on existing structural elements must always be compatible with the original in order to avoid the introduction of new pathological problems.

Due consideration shall be given to foreseeable actions and influences, seeking to minimise the consequences of extraordinary events and facilitate the maintenance of buildings. Regarding suitability for use, care must be taken to prevent inadmissible behaviour, such as deformations, anomalies or degradation, restricting the likelihood of dynamic behaviour to an acceptable level. The foregoing must be made compatible with the heritage values of the building, giving particular consideration to its constructional logic and the interaction between existing elements and new interventions where required.

Proper maintenance of such elements must be ensured, according to specific instructions laid out in a maintenance or risk prevention plan. In the same way, the scope of maintenance should be extended to those construction elements, although they don't have a structural function that could be a risk to users. In particular those located at a height and whose poor state of conservation or any other cause may cause them to detach.

Article 17. Cultural heritage must be used and enjoyed under safe conditions against all kinds of risks.

Suitable protection measures must be adopted to prevent fall risks due to falls, impact, entrapment, drowning or trapping in enclosures, as well as those arising from unsuitable lighting, high occupancy, moving vehicles, or natural phenomena. These measures must be compatible with the asset's values.

In case safety cannot be guaranteed, users should be informed of the physical and psychological risks, and if necessary, access may be limited.

Article 18. Suitable provision shall be made for detection, alarm and safe evacuation.

Emergency situations in cultural assets pose a serious threat both to the asset itself and its content and to the safety of individuals.

Such assets must weighted comply with the local standards and regulations regarding emergency detection and alarm systems, with a view to implementing suitable and necessary solutions allowing prompt and orderly response with the highest safety assurances in each specific case. The design of such solutions must take into consideration the need to avoid compromising the value and conservation of the asset.

If all these measures cannot be guaranteed, access to the site could be limited.

Article 19. Cultural heritage must be kept in acceptable health conditions.

Tangible assets shall be maintained in such a way as to ensure suitable health and hygiene conditions for users and proper conservation of all the assets' constituent elements and prevent the deterioration of their immediate environment. The collection, processing and storage of visitors' waste should receive daily attention.

Specific policy-based maintenance plans need to be developed or specific measures need to be included in prevention plans, regarding the recommendations and required actions, with a view to ensuring that proper health conditions are maintained in moveable and real estate assets.

Building Risk Prevention Plan

Article 20. A suitable prevention plan must be drawn up according to the specific features of the asset.

The risks associated with the use and conservation of an asset must be identified, quantified, assessed and measured in order to put in place a prevention plan addressing such risks and ensuring the maintenance and the operation of existing measures to ensure that the cultural assets are used under safe conditions.

Prevention plans must be fully inclusive and comprehensive, taking into account all potential risks, regular uses and the need to avoid compromising the conservation and values of the asset. Prevention plans must in all cases identify those risks that can be avoided and the steps required to mitigate them, as well as regular evaluation of the risks that cannot be avoided and their signposting or other measures contemplated to control or minimize such risks.

The training of personnel related to the management of the property is considered fundamental, and must include regular emergency drills to help regular users and staff familiarise themselves with the means available and the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. For temporary or non-regular use scenarios, a complementary prevention plan must be drawn up and implemented prior to commencing the new activity.

A person, with adequate specific training, responsible for the drawing up of the plan, as well as its implementation, follow-up and compliance must be identified. This person will have the corresponding specific training.

PART FOUR. SAFETY IN MAINTENANCE AND INTERVENTION WORKS

Risks specificity

Article 21. There are specific risks associated with maintenance and intervention works.

When performing maintenance and intervention works on heritage assets, there are specific risks, arising from the specialised nature and complexity of the operations required to be carried out, as well as from the restrictions on certain safety measures due to the assets' heritage rating.

Such specific conditions must be taken into account in the design and the implementation of safety measures, which will include, as well as those regarding the workers and third parties safety, specific measures to assure that the values, understanding and interpretation of cultural heritage are not adversely affected.

It is advisable to signpost any components or elements which, owing to their fragile or hazardous nature, require specific protection or treatment when carrying out maintenance tasks or intervention works.

Maintenance Plan and Safety and Health Plans

Article 22. Every asset must have an appropriate maintenance plan associated with it.

A maintenance plan must be in place for every heritage asset, including all the measures required to ensure the safety of workers, users, visitors and transients during maintenance work, and taking into account their intervals and interactions.

A person, with specific, appropriate and sufficient training, responsible for the drawing up of the maintenance plan, as well as its implementation and follow up, must be identified. Such a person shall verify that planned works are carried out and ensure that suitable safety procedures are adopted.

Article 23. Every intervention must have an associated safety and health plan.

A safety and health plan must be in place when performing intervention works. The scope and content of the plan shall be adapted to the magnitude and hazards of the work involved. The plan shall identify in all cases those risks that can be avoided and the steps required to do so, and shall also include the evaluation of the risks that cannot be avoided and the signposting or other measures contemplated to control or mitigate them.

A person, with specific, appropriate and sufficient training, responsible for the drawing up, implementation and follow-up of the safety and health plan in intervention works must be identified.

Article 24. Coordination of the maintenance plan and the safety and health plans with the risk prevention plan: management plan

The maintenance plan and any safety and health plans implemented for interventions on heritage assets must be suitable coordinated with each other and with the risk prevention plan.

The set of plans that ensure safety in heritage should be integrated into a management plan that contains all aspects related to the subject throughout the use and conservation of the asset, coordinating them in an interrelated way, and updating them with the periodicity that is pertinent depending on the type of the asset.

Glossary of Terms

Authenticity: It is the quality of a heritage site to express its cultural significance through its material attributes and intangible values in a truthful and credible manner. It depends on the type of cultural heritage site and its cultural context. (Madrid Document)

Conservation: It is the complex of attitudes of a community that contributes to making the heritage and its monuments endure. Conservation is achieved with reference to the significance of the entity, with its associated values. (The Charter of Krakow)

Cultural Heritage: It is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. (Faro Convention)

Human Rights: They are inherent rights and freedoms of all human beings, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty. (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Spoilation: Any action or omission placing all or any of the values of the cultural heritage at risk of loss or destruction or preventing it from carrying out its social function. (Law 16/1985 dated 25 June, on the Spanish Historical Heritage)

Maintenance: It means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a heritage site and is to be distinguished from repair. (Madrid Document)

Management Plan: It is a document specifying in detail all the strategies and tools to be used for heritage protection and which at the same time responds to the needs of contemporary life. It contains legislative, financial, administrative and conservation documents, as well as Conservation and Monitoring Plans. (Valletta Principles)

Prevention Plan: An interdisciplinary tool establishing strategies and guidelines for risk prevention, as well as for the design of action protocols necessary for the protection, evacuation or rescue of cultural assets in emergency situations. (National Plan for Emergencies and Risk Management in Cultural Heritage).

Restoration: It is an operation directed on a heritage property, aiming at the conservation of its authenticity and its appropriation by the community. g. Project of restoration: The project, resulting from the choice of conservation policies, is the process through which conservation of the built heritage and landscape is carried out. (The Charter of Krakow)