



STATUTES OF THE UNITWIN NETWORK FOR UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

Considering that one of the essential factors favouring development in maritime and underwater archaeology is the exchange of experience and knowledge, especially between universities;

Convinced that collaborative work between university academics, researchers and authorities from different regions across the world will benefit the entire academic community;

Bearing in mind UNESCO's mission and objectives as set forth in its Constitution, and the role of UNESCO in promoting inter-university cooperation on an international level;

Bearing in mind the principles and ethics of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;

Taking into account the experience of UNESCO's international UNITWIN Chairs Programme as a stimulus to the rapid transfer of knowledge through twinning, networking and other linking arrangements;

UNESCO and the first four Network Members created a UNESCO/UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology in the framework of UNESCO's UNITWIN Chairs Programme on 29 October 2012.

Its Statutes shall be as follows:

Article 1 - Functions

1. The UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology (hereinafter "**the Network**") aims to increase capacity in the participating countries through international cooperation. It shall enhance the protection and research of underwater cultural heritage, by connecting in a formal way universities and professional training institutions working in the field of maritime and underwater archaeology. It shall moreover act as a bridge between the academic world, civil society, local communities, research and policy-makers.
2. The Network shall seek to support the efforts of the UNESCO Secretariat of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage ("hereinafter "**the Convention**").

3. The main objectives of the Network are to:

- a. promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities in the field of archaeology related to underwater cultural heritage and related disciplines;
- b. create an academic training network tasked to harmonize teaching schedules and programmes, teaching material and standards; organize joint field schools; set up distance learning courses at Master's level, as well as common Master's level courses; foster faculty and student mobility and set up a common scholarship system; and facilitate exchange technical material;
- c. set up a common web portal to facilitate knowledge and information sharing and the creation of a virtual community;
- d. organize regional and international conferences and seminars to promote the discipline and advance innovative research, as well as annual thematic meetings of the Network;
- e. carry out joint research projects to enhance understanding of the status of underwater cultural heritage worldwide;
- f. contribute to the elaboration of a pedagogical kit for underwater archaeology education;
- g. foster research, development, exchange and harmonization of databases and inventories addressing different aspects of underwater cultural heritage;
- h. encourage inter-university cooperation through the transfer of knowledge, reinforce the dynamism of existing academic and professional networks and strengthen North-South cooperation;
- i. act as a bridge between the academic world, civil society, local communities, research and policy-makers, promoting awareness of underwater cultural heritage and influencing cultural heritage policies.

Article 2 - Membership

1. Universities or similar academic teaching institutions, which have a full degree course in maritime or underwater archaeology, be it at graduate or postgraduate level, within a recognized and accredited academic framework, may become member of the Network (hereinafter "**Member**").
2. Members must be certified and recognized by their national and competent authorities and work in compliance with the principles of the Convention.

Article 3 - Associate Membership

An institution or a university can apply to become an associated member (hereinafter “**Associate Member**”) when it, while not having a full degree course in maritime or underwater archaeology, delivers courses or carries out training or research in the field, within a recognized and accredited academic framework and is working in compliance with the principles of the Convention.

Article 4 - Partners

The Network shall consult and collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) having activities related to underwater archaeology, in particular with NGOs accredited by the Meeting of States Parties of the Convention, as well as with centres of research and other institutions.

Article 5 - UNESCO Representation

The Director-General of UNESCO or his/her representative may participate in the work of the Meeting. He/she may, at any time, make either oral or written statements on any question under discussion.

Article 6 – Accession Procedure

1. Universities or institutions wishing to become Member or Associate Member of the Network shall apply through a written request, signed by the competent representative of the university or institution.
2. The application letter shall be accompanied by
 - a. a declaration of support from the National Commission for UNESCO of the concerned country, or a letter of support of a similar national authority; and
 - b. a summary description of the Institution’s activities, achievements and programmes in the field of maritime or underwater archaeology.
3. Each accession needs to be approved by the majority vote of the Network Members.

Article 7 - Coordinating Institution and Coordinator

1. The institution, which shall coordinate the Network (hereinafter “**Coordinating Institution**”), shall be elected for a period of three years by a simple majority of all the Network members.

The term of office will run from the opening of the meeting in which the Coordinating Institution is elected until the third meeting thereafter, when a new coordinating institution will be elected. New candidates shall be nominated three month before this meeting.

2. The coordinating institution shall designate a responsible coordinator (hereinafter "**Coordinator**").
3. The Coordinating Institution shall:
 - a. coordinate the work of the Network;
 - b. organize the meetings and order of business of each meeting;
 - c. report on the Network activities annually to the UNESCO Unitwin Programme Secretariat as well as to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body of the 2001 Convention; and
 - d. archive the information and data generated by the Network.
4. The Coordinator shall
 - a. open and close each meeting;
 - b. direct the discussions and ensure observance of these Statutes;
 - c. accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions; and
 - d. control the proceedings and the maintenance of order.

Article 8 - Meetings

1. The Network meets once a year. The Network members may convene an exceptional session. The Coordinator shall establish the agenda for the meetings in close cooperation with UNESCO.
2. In addition to Members, Associate members, experts or representatives of organizations, whose duties and qualifications make them suitable for assisting the Network, may be invited to a meeting.

Article 9 - Public Nature of Meetings

Meetings shall be held in public unless decided otherwise by the Network Members.

Article 10 - Quorum

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Network Members.
2. The Network shall not decide on any matter unless a quorum is present.

Article 11 - Official languages

1. The official language of the Meeting shall be English.
2. Speakers may, however, speak in any other language, provided that they make their own arrangements for interpretation of their speeches.

Article 12 - Voting and Elections

1. Each Member shall have one vote. Associate Members have no right of vote.
2. Decisions and recommendations shall be adopted by consensus, or, if no consensus emerges, by majority vote of the Network Members present and voting. Members abstaining from voting shall be regarded as not voting.
3. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by a Network Member.
4. When the result of a vote by show of hands is in doubt, the Coordinator may take a second vote by roll-call. A vote by roll-call shall also be taken if it is requested by not less than two Network Members before the voting takes place.

Article 14 - Funding

Network members shall endeavour to provide appropriate funding for the Network. UNESCO shall make all reasonable efforts to identify funding from regular and extra budgetary sources.

Article 15 – Amendments and Suspension

1. The Statutes of the Network may be amended by the Network Members upon majority vote.
2. The regulations of these Statutes may be suspended by a decision of the Network Members taken by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.