



**Culture Sector**  
Division for Heritage

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
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Организация  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

H. E. Mr Ghalib Iqbal  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Delegate of the Islamic  
Republic of Pakistan to UNESCO  
UNESCO House

Ref.: CLT/HER/WHC/APA/JH/15/263 29 October 2015

Dear Ambassador,

- I am writing to you concerning the Fort and Shalamar Gardens World Heritage property in Lahore, Punjab Province of Pakistan.
- The World Heritage Centre has received a series of reports expressing concerns for the state of conservation of this property due to the urban development project that has been currently implemented in Lahore by the Government of Punjab, in particular the proposed track of metro line that passes by near the World Heritage property.

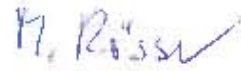
As you know the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore was removed in 2012 from the World Heritage List in Danger. The World Heritage Centre, therefore, received this piece of information with utmost importance, as the above-mentioned metro project might result in more serious and irreversible damage to the property and its Outstanding Universal Value for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981.

By bringing this critical situation to your attention, we would be grateful if the competent authorities of Pakistan could respectfully provide detailed information on this project in line with the provisions of paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, which reads as follows, "*The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the outstanding universal value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the outstanding universal value of the property is fully preserved*".

Should the project has already been on-going, I would like to recommend that the portion of the Project in vicinity of the World Heritage property be halted as soon as possible until the Advisory Bodies have reviewed the submitted relevant information and an evaluation on the proposed metro line has been made.

.../...

Thanking you for your kind support for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.



**Mechtild Rössler**  
Director  
World Heritage Centre

cc: Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO  
UNESCO office in Islamabad