



Nº 01/40/665



"04" December 2015

To: Mrs. Mechtild Rössler
Director of Heritage Division and
Director of the World Heritage Center

Dear Mrs. Rössler,

First of all let me use this opportunity to express you my highest considerations.

It's my pleasure to present you State of Conservation Report of Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshahs' Palace and the Maiden Tower which describes the works carried out during last 2 years and the steps taken to implement the recommendations set out in the decision 38 COM 7B.23, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session.

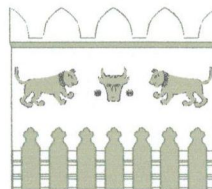
Let us also confirm that the executive summary of the report can be uploaded with public access on the State of Conservation Information System.

Thank you once again for cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Samir Nuriyev

Head of Administration



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STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE – WALLED CITY OF BAKU WITH THE SHIRVANSHAHS' PALACE AND THE MAIDEN TOWER, AZERBAIJAN

December 2015
Baku

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document summarizes the measures taken by the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” and other governmental bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan within last 2 years in order to improve state of conservation of the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshahs’ Palace and the Maiden Tower. During these years, the Administration has organized its activities in line with the recommendations introduced by relevant Decision (38 COM 7B.23) of the UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee adopted at the 38th Session (Doha, 2014).

During the reporting period, the Administration has continued its work on improving the management model and maintaining the proper state of conservation of historical-architectural monuments in accordance with developed Integrated Area Management Action Plan (IAMAP) and General Detailed Conservation Master Plan of the Historical Centre of Baku (CMP). Effective preservation of the Walled City of Baku (Icherisheher) as a World Heritage Site as well as achievement of an appropriate balance between living area and the capital’s most visited touristic destination have remained a top priority for the Administration.

A fruitful cooperation with the relevant state authorities, particularly within the framework introduced by the “State Program on Restoration and Preservation of Historical-Cultural Monuments and Improvement and Development of Functionality of Cultural Reserves (2014-2020)”, helped to improve and extend existing national legal base in order to provide better quality of protection, restoration and use of the cultural heritage in Azerbaijan.

Living City approach has successfully been applied to improve and maintain better living conditions within the Walled City of Baku. The Administration has taken all necessary actions to initiate and support rehabilitation of decayed historic buildings within its budget, through public incentives and effective cooperation with donor organisations.

At the same time, measures have also been taken to increase the responsibility of the property owners in terms of preservation of historical appearance and structure of the buildings. Closer cooperation and negotiation with owners of some buildings with illegal extensions constructed long time ago resulted, in some cases, in their voluntarily removal and restoration of original structures. In other cases, the Administration has undertaken relevant administrative and legal actions to mitigate the impacts of transformations of historic buildings.

Within mentioned period of time the Administration has strengthened the effective implementation of the moratorium on further construction, elevation and inappropriate transformation of historical buildings within the property by undertaking regular inspections and monitoring as well as by upgrading 24/7 CCTV control and security service on the territory.

During these years, the social life in Icherisheher has been dramatically enriched by numerous festivals and cultural events attracting a big number of visitors. The creation of renewed museum exhibitions in the Shirvanshahs’ Palace and the Maiden Tower has enhanced the possibilities to share the scientific findings with wider public and cultivate the appreciation of cultural heritage through education.