

MEDIA RELEASE

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CULTURAL HERITAGE THREATENED BY GLOBALISATION

The World Archaeological Congress calls on those responsible for rural development policies and programmes to integrate cultural heritage concerns into their decision-making processes.

It also calls on policy makers to ensure that the values and concerns of first nation and Indigenous communities are fully taken into account in planning processes.

This resolution was passed unanimously at the Plenary session of the Sixth World Archaeological Congress, held in Dublin, Ireland.

“The changes induced by globalization in agricultural and forest land-use management practices is depleting this resource,” Professor Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress, said today.

“In many parts of the world this heritage is under threat. We have to act now if we are to protect important cultural heritage globally. There is an urgent need for evidence-based research into the impact of these kinds of developments.”

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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BACKGROUND:

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization and is the only elected international body of practising archaeologists. WAC holds an international congress every four years to promote the exchange of the results of archaeological research; professional training and public education for disadvantaged nations, groups and communities; the empowerment and betterment of Indigenous groups and First Nations peoples; and the conservation of archaeological sites.

The World Archaeological Congress, by statute, has an Indigenous Council made up of Indigenous members. The current Indigenous Council has representatives from Australia, New Zealand, North America and South America.

The Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) was held from 29th June—4th July at the University College Dublin. This was the first World Archaeological Congress to be held in Ireland. It was attended by over 1,800 archaeologists, native peoples and international scholars from 74 nations. Motions from the Plenary session of the Congress were considered by subsequent meetings of the World Archaeological Congress Council and Executive.

The Congress Patron for WAC-6 was President Mary McAleese. Previous Congress Patrons include Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Prince Charles and Nelson Mandela