

The theme of the first of three webinars held in the framework of the Italian chairmanship of the G20 Culture work stream is the protection of cultural heritage in crisis areas, in war zones and following natural disasters, the so called “Blue Helmets of Culture”, the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural assets and the use of new technologies.

“Protection of cultural heritage and illicit trafficking. *The Future will give Us back our Past* ” will be broadcast tomorrow 9 April, from 12 to 16, on the Youtube channel of the Ministry of Culture.

The meeting, opened by Roberto Riccardi, General of the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, is organised in 4 sessions, each foreseeing a presentation outlining key aspects and setting the context for the debate. It will be attended by international experts, scholars and operators from all over the world, including international organisations like UNESCO, UNIDROIT, ICOM, Eurojust, INTERPOL UNITE4HERITAGE.

The aim of the meeting is to explore and to discuss forms of international cooperation to protect cultural heritage, improving coordination and increasing effectiveness in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural goods.

The discussion will focus on relevant case-studies on how international institutions and G20 countries have dealt with the protection and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural goods, as well as episodes of emergency interventions, moving from the Italian experience of the Blue Helmets of culture, the #Unite4Heritage task force under the aegis of Unesco.

Best practices on the use of new technologies applied to disaster risk management, both nationally and internationally, will also be shared.

Reflections and proposals will feed the discussion of the Culture G20 Ministerial meeting chaired by Minister Dario Franceschini on 29 and 30 July.

Among the participants in tomorrow's webinar: Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, Deputy Director General of Culture, UNESCO; Maria Chiara Malaguti, President of UNIDROIT; Sophie Delepierre, International Council of Museums (ICOM); Filippo SPIEZIA, EuroJust Prosecutor; Gilles Dutertre, lawyer of the International Criminal Court; Zeynep Boz, Head of the Department for Combating Illicit Trafficking - Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey; Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of Culture and Emergencies, UNESCO; Paolo Iannelli, Directorate General for the security of the cultural heritage of the MiC; Luigi Spadari, Head of Data Processing Unit, Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, TPC Carabinieri and Italian Task Force Unite4Heritage; Zhengxin HUO, Director of the Department of Strategic Development and Discipline Construction - Chinese University of Political Science and Law.

For further information: www.beniculturali.it/g20webinar