

**VIDEO MESSAGE BY ERNESTO OTTONE,  
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**New spatial planning methodologies in the context of protection and  
management of World Heritage (UNESCO) and historic urban landscape (HUL)**

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It is my great pleasure to join you in celebrating the UNESCO World Heritage Year in Dubrovnik. I would like to congratulate the Croatian authorities and the Society of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities for organizing this significant event.

The old city of Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage property since 1979, is a unique urban landscape combining Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture.

Over the course of its history, the city has managed to preserve its precious heritage, demonstrating an exceptional resilience to natural and human-induced disasters and a willingness to cooperate towards rehabilitation and restoration.

UNESCO was proud to contribute to Dubrovnik's post-war reconstruction and continues to support the sustainable management of the World Heritage property, including through our excellent cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Media.

At its 46<sup>th</sup> session in New Delhi last July, the World Heritage Committee urged States Parties to implement the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL). This recommendation is a crucial tool to harmonize heritage conservation with urban planning, ensuring the safeguarding of our shared heritage for future generations.

I commend the Ministry of Culture and Media and the City of Dubrovnik for its efforts to manage tourism pressure and promote sustainable tourism practices in the city. The adoption of the 2021-2026 Management Plan for the old city of Dubrovnik is a crucial step in safeguarding its Outstanding Universal Value and preserving it as a living city while accommodating increasing tourism demands.

This international conference on World Heritage Planning and Management provides an excellent occasion to reflect on Dubrovnik's management and to assess how to improve the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

I warmly thank Croatia for its long-standing cooperation with UNESCO, which serves as a model for making World Heritage properties more vibrant, inclusive and sustainable.

Thank you.