

### **The Parthenon Sculptures**

17. The case of Parthenon Sculptures was submitted to the Committee in 1984. Since then, the Committee has been examining the case during its successive sessions and has adopted several recommendations for a mutually acceptable solution to be reached and inviting the Director-General to facilitate encounters to that effect. On many occasions, UNESCO reiterated its readiness to act as facilitator between Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in this regard.
18. The 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the ICPRCP (September 2021) adopted Recommendation 22.COM 6 calling upon Greece and the United Kingdom to “intensify their efforts with a view to reaching a satisfactory settlement of this long-standing issue, taking into account its historical, cultural, legal and ethical dimension” (paragraph 9), and calling on the Director-General to “assist in convening the necessary meetings between Greece and the United Kingdom with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable solution on this issue” (paragraph 10). Decision 22.COM 6 was adopted during the same session, which, among others, “calls on the United Kingdom to reconsider its stand and proceed to a bona fide dialogue with Greece on the matter [of the Parthenon Sculptures]”. Following Recommendation 22.COM 6, the Secretariat sent two letters to the United Kingdom and Greece in March 2022 requesting information and proposing to facilitate dialogue.
19. The United Kingdom and Greece responded to the Secretariat on 8 April and 18 April 2022 respectively, describing the actions undertaken to pursue the dialogue on this case. In this regard, both Member States mentioned the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in London in November 2021, during which Prime Minister Johnson reiterated the United Kingdom’s long-standing position that this issue remains one for the Trustees of the British Museum. The United Kingdom informed the Secretariat of its suggestion to organize a meeting between the Greek Minister of Culture, Lina Mendoni, and the Minister of the United Kingdom Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Lord Parkinson, which they hope would receive a positive response from the Greek authorities. In this regard, Greece informed the Secretariat that the suggestion of the United Kingdom was sent to the Greek Minister of Culture on 29 April 2022, was immediately accepted and a meeting between the parties is about to be arranged in due course.

### **The Broken Hill Man Skull**

20. The Broken Hill Man Skull was discovered in 1921 during a mining operation in Kabwe when Zambia was under the British rule. The skull was taken to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to be studied and was then donated to the Natural History Museum in London when it was still a part of the British Museum.
21. In 2016, Zambia sent a letter to the Director-General of UNESCO requesting the inclusion of the case of the Broken Hill Man Skull to the agenda of the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the ICPRCP. As the Broken Hill Man Skull case was not presented six months before the opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> session, it could not be included on the agenda. Following the reception of a Standard Form concerning the request for return or restitution within the prescribed period, the case was included in the agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> session in 2018 during which the parties were able to present their respective positions.
22. Recommendation 22 COM 7 (7) adopted by the twenty-second session of the ICPRCP Invited the Director-General “to facilitate in convening necessary meetings between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia which may also be attended by the Secretariat of UNESCO”. Pursuant to this Recommendation, the Secretariat sent a letter on 4 March 2022 to Zambia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressing its availability for