



Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Written statement on 7B.34 Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore

Distinguished members of the World Heritage Committee,

on behalf of the Lahore Conservation Society and World Heritage Watch, we comment on Draft Decision 7B.34 Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore:

Shalamar Gardens & the Elevated Orange Metro Train

It is definitively clear that the elevated orange line metro train has 'irreversibly damaged not only the visual integrity, authenticity & OUV of the world heritage site forever, but stands in absolute 'Violation of the Law', being within the 200 foot safeguard area'.

It is imperative that the 2018 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the Honourable Supreme Court recommendations and decisions be implemented in 'letter and spirit' and with 'immediate effect'. It is recommended that the road in front of the WHS be taken 'underground' and a garden be made here to mitigate the noise, dust and other degradation to the WHS.

It is also imperative that representatives of 'civil society' be made a part of the process, this brings not only neutral 3rd party reporting, but also credibility, transparency and inclusiveness, thereby adhering to the 'Convention', making civil society an integral part of an informed decision making process. This 'Gap' must be filled, making the convention a force to reckon with in World Heritage protection.

It is heartening that the State Party has started the process of review and consultation and the Archaeology Dept. has formed a 'Regulatory Committee' for Orange Line Metro related work and operations. Due to Covid-19 and its unforeseen implications this has not progressed as desired. It is requested that the State Party complete all of the above within 6 months in consultation with civil society and ICOMOS and submit it to the World Heritage Committee and Advisory Bodies for review. We reiterate that 'civil society' be included in all committees and processes related to the WHS, Shalamar Gardens and the Fort.

Lahore Fort

The 'New Concrete Kitchen' which is 7 feet away from the old Royal Kitchen buildings is in 'direct Violation of the law', this may be demolished immediately. That dining may not be allowed, due to the ancillary requirements which are in direct violation of the convention and operational guidelines. This area may be used for educational purposes in keeping with the operational guidelines.