



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

To the National Delegations
UNESCO, Paris

October 7, 2015

We would like to express our appreciation for your support to the institutions of Kosovo in our bid for UNESCO membership. As we move forward with our plans, we would like to provide you with additional information on our staunch commitment to protect all cultural heritage in Kosovo.

Amid a current of accusations and disinformation regarding the status of the medieval heritage sites and other property of the Serbian Orthodox Church situated in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, we would like to inform you with the latest situation regarding the status of the Serbian Orthodox sites.

For the purpose of providing additional assurances of the need for Kosovo to become a UNESCO member as a fundamental tool to provide ultimate protection of our joint heritage and patrimony –

We, the democratically elected leaders of Kosovo institutions, state the following:

- The Republic of Kosovo hereby confirms that it will continue to abide by the Annex 5 obligations of the Ahtisaari Plan, proposed by the UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari and endorsed by the Secretary General of United Nations in March 2007, that provide the Serbian Orthodox Church constitutional protection of its identity, property and special relations with Serbia.
- The Republic of Kosovo will not change without consultation with the Serbian Orthodox Church the official titles of the four medieval UNESCO heritage sites of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.
- The Government and the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo will consult with all religious communities, including the Serbian Orthodox Church, as well as UNESCO and Council of Europe experts, before amending the Law on Cultural Heritage or related regulations.
- The Serbian Orthodox Church will remain the sole Christian Orthodox organization in the territory of Kosovo, enjoying full legal persona, granted by the

new Draft Law on Religion that was drafted with guidance from experts of Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. This draft law provides highest standards of protection for religious communities and has already received approval from the European Union.

- Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo will continue to protect a secular, republican system based on respect for diversity and full rights of minorities and will continue to actively promote inter-faith and inter-communal dialogue as a tool to post-conflict reconciliation. Kosovo's interfaith efforts have already been noted positively in three United Nations Security Council reports by the Secretary General of UN, Ban Ki Moon.
- For the purpose of restoring, preserving and protecting valuable heritage sites, both religious and vernacular, the Government of Republic of Kosovo will dedicate further 2 million USD, in addition to over 5 million USD invested in the last years, in restoring the Serbian Orthodox sites.

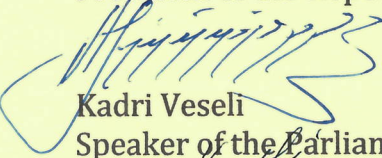
We hope you appreciate that these guarantees as well as the independent status report on the Serbian Orthodox sites in Kosovo, drafted by Ambassador Dr. Dimitris Moschopoulos, a Greek heritage expert, who serves as UNDP Advisor on Religious and Cultural Heritage.

This independent report, attached to the letter, is endorsed by our institutions.

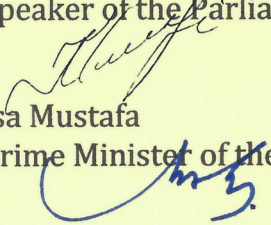
This additional information is provided in good faith to assure that Kosovo membership to UNESCO will only have positive effects on the status of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo.

Sincerely yours,

Atifete Jahjaga
President of the Republic of Kosovo



Kadri Veseli
Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo



Isa Mustafa
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

Hashim Thaçi
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

