

Side Event:

48th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Date: 22 July 2026 | **Time:** 13.15 – 14.45 | **Venue:** 110, 1F, Convention Hall, Bexco, Busan



Merging Engagements with Synergies in Heritage – Initiative



PROGRAMME

This side event presents **MESH-In**, a long-term, partnership-based initiative aimed to strengthen engagements with synergies for heritage protection in support of UNESCO's standard-setting tools. It brings together UNESCO's interest in enhancing cross-convention cooperation, with practice-based synergies arising naturally from engagement with heritage on the ground.

The side event raises early awareness of **MESH-In** ahead of its launch in 2027. It introduces the initiative's vision and goals, while creating a space for dialogue and reflection on how diverse forms of collaborative engagement in heritage protection adds value to UNESCO's efforts.

HOST

Institute Heritage Studies

CO-ORGANIZERS

Korean National Commission for UNESCO

Barbados Museum and Historical Society

Foundation for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Nigeria

International Centre for Documentary Heritage

German Commission for UNESCO

PART I: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

13.15 – 13.35

Opening Remark

Frederike Hansell | World Heritage Focal Point, Federal Foreign Office (Germany)

Introducing MESH-In

Anca Claudia Prodan | Co-Director, Institute Heritage Studies

PART II: ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF HERITAGE SYNERGIES

13.35 – 14.15

Policy Levels and Practice

Jihon Kim | Chief of Policy, Korean National Commission

Regions and Sectors

Alessandra Cummins | Chair, Barbados National Commission for UNESCO & Director, Barbados Museum and Historical Society

Knowledge Systems and Domains

Tokie Laotan-Brown | President, Foundation for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Nigeria & Nsibidi Institute for Culture and Memory

Education and Thematic Agendas

Junsu Seo | Senior Programme Specialist, International Centre for Documentary Heritage

Generations and Social Actors

Claudia Grünberg | Co-Director, Institute Heritage Studies

Networks and Programmes

Marlen Meissner | Head of Department 'Heritage, Nature, Society', German Commission for UNESCO

PART III: INTERACTIVE EXCHANGE

14.15 – 14.45

Insights from Side Event Participants and Joint Reflection on MESH-In



Initiative Led by
Institute Heritage Studies
www.heritagestudies.eu/mesh-in

