Conservation has been defined in many ways, but in the last few years has been interestingly and in the view of the author accurately described as “the management of change”.

Development is less easy to define and the causes of development are many.

Throughout human experience, countless cultures and sub cultures have emerged, thrived, declined and ended. Cultures have often been replaced for many reasons, technological change, political change, environmental change, and other causes.

We may examine a site from the period when the stone-age was developing from nomadic hunter gatherers to the origins of agriculture and fixed occupation including the earliest urban settlements. This is a case of technological change which became the driver for social change.

A good example of this would be the 12,000 year old site of Gobeklitepe in modern Turkey, where a site, interpreted by some as a ritual place and by others as a potential population centre, is extraordinary in several ways. The main importance of Gobeklitepe is that during its 1500 years of use, it starts at the final and high point of stone-age technology, extraordinary sophistication, use of materials like concrete before lime burning technology had evolved, but declining toward the end of its use and thereby reflecting the end of hunter gatherer life in the region and the birth of more sedentary agricultural cultures.

Gobeklitepe demonstrates the highest expression of stone-age technology and sophistication, where, with small tools but exceptional understanding of available materials things were achieved that would represent huge challenges today. Over the life of the site, perhaps during just the final 1000 years, the technology declines and then as
such, disappears to be replaced by other livelihoods, technologies, cultural goals and celebrations. What is most relevant is that the people of Gobeklitepe, recognised the decline and carefully intentionally reburied the most important aspects of the stone-age culture. This may well have been done to preserve the cultural memory and allow the past to continue in its power and influence, beneath the very land upon which new agricultural values thrived and still do to this day. As a conservator, the author delights in the philosophical decision and understanding of common conservation concerns 12,000 years ago. It would be satisfying to see Gobeklitepe as the earliest expression of intentional preservation yet discovered.

We can also see that political change, either through the action of conflict, change of philosophical or religious values, change of vision in the organisation of life and all of those conditions that define political/cultural change are strong factors in development and progress.

There are numerous examples of this, but your speaker chooses the city of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia as an example; a city now striving to achieve World Heritage Status, despite being towards the end of a burst of lively re-development. The historical core of Jeddah with tall and imposing earth and wooden architecture, suffered a decline partly due to a change in political influence caused in part by oil revenues and the cultural challenges and personal wealth that this engendered. Now as the ancient life of the city declined and the old traditional houses no longer satisfied the needs and aspirations of the residents, the city has developed strongly, in a new and radical way. New building materials, new hygienic mechanical and electrical services, new lifestyle aspirations. The city has hugely increased its population and we have become concerned with “modern” pressures to conservation: densification, verticalisation, sprawl, increasing migration, disembedding, implying loss of traditions.

Surrounded by a twisting ancient market or bazaar, the remaining ancient houses now realise a very special significance, that of rarity; but is it too late, to far moved towards development? Your speaker does not believe that it has moved too far, and that we have a need to re-examine the World Heritage City paradigm to allow
consideration of the inclusion of Jeddah and many other places, perhaps especially in Asia, in the number of World Heritage Cities.

In other cases, environmental change, perhaps especially pertinent as we face the possibility and effects of global climate change, have made major changes to the need to re-develop cities that have become ruined or impractical because of physical forces beyond control. The reason why earthquakes, Tsunami and extreme weather events have seemed more prevalent in recent times is not because disastrous events have become more frequent. The fact is that urban centers have grown beyond any former history and the styles and materials of construction have changed, but not necessarily improved. When disasters occur, they are simply amplified in effect by the numbers of people affected and the expansion of construction that has occurred to accommodate those people in the last 50 years.

Here your author wishes to use the Chinese city of Beichuan as a particularly tragic, but sadly typical historic example. Following the dreadful results of an earthquake in 2008, the united National and regional authorities have decided to entirely remove the city to a new and safer location, while some aspects of the damaged city may be retained as a memorial to the many residents who were lost during the disaster and the added damage done by land slips and mud floods that further distressed the city after the earthquake. Throughout history cities around the world have changed their location to a lesser and greater extent, due to environmental influences, and at Beichuan, everything of the former city, with few surviving older monuments will be replaced. But the culture of the city will live on and the history of the need to re-site the city in the early 21st Century will become an important addition to the memory and less tangible cultural heritage of the place.

As the author has been writing this paper, at least two important new influences have occurred.

Here, in China, at the 6th Plenary session of the 17th CPC Central Committee meeting in Beijing, held in October 2011, a pledge was made to boost China’s cultural influence internationally. In a guideline endorsed at the conference, the leaders stressed that China is facing an imperative need to boost its "cultural soft power"
and enhance the global image of its culture. Culture is emerging as an important part of the country's comprehensive competitiveness. The country should not only provide its people with an ample material life, but also a healthy and rich cultural life. The document states that "Culture has increasingly become a major element bringing together the people and the creative power of the Chinese nationality,"

China has long been discussing the role of cultural heritage as a contributor to harmonious life, and the author congratulates China in the great responses that have been achieved within this activity.

Another major contribution to world cultural heritage is reflected in the UNESCO recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes. As, “Proposals Concerning the Desirability of a Standard Setting Instrument on Historic Urban Landscapes”, released on 10th November 2011, which makes this meeting in Hong Kong particularly timely and of additional significance.

In the preamble of the UNESCO document the following points are raised:

“Considering that historic urban areas are among the most abundant and diverse manifestations of our common cultural heritage, shaped by generations and constituting a key testimony to humankind’s endeavour and aspirations through space and time,
Further considering that urban heritage is for humanity a social, cultural and economic asset, defined by an historic layering of values that have been produced by successive and existing cultures and an accumulation of traditions and experiences, recognized as such in their diversity,
Also considering that urbanization is proceeding at an unprecedented scale in the history of humankind and that throughout the world this is driving socio-economic change and growth, which should be harnessed at the local, national, regional and international levels,
Recognizing, the dynamic nature of living cities,
Noting, however, that rapid and frequently uncontrolled development is transforming urban areas and their settings, which may cause fragmentation and deterioration to urban heritage with deep impacts on community values, throughout the world. **Considering**, therefore, that in order to support the protection of natural and cultural heritage, emphasis needs to be put on the integration of historic urban area conservation, management and planning strategies into local development processes and urban planning, such as, contemporary architecture and infrastructure development, for which the application of a landscape approach would help maintain urban identity, **Considering** that the principle of sustainable development provides for the preservation of existing resources, the active protection of urban heritage and its sustainable management is a condition *sine qua non* of development, “

Your speaker recommends that the entire document be carefully studied, and today draws attention to the following points in the draft resolution:

UNESCO…. “

4. Recommends that Member States take the appropriate steps to: adapt this new instrument to their specific contexts; disseminate it widely across their national territories; facilitate its implementation through the formulation and adoption of supporting policies; and to monitor its impact on the conservation and management of historic cities;

4. Recommends that Member States take the appropriate steps to: adapt this new instrument to their specific contexts; disseminate it widely across their national territories; facilitate its implementation through the formulation and adoption of
supporting policies; and to monitor its impact on the conservation and management of historic cities;
5. Further recommends that Member States and relevant local authorities identify within their specific contexts the critical steps to implement the Historic Urban Landscape approach, which may include the following:
(a) to undertake comprehensive surveys and mapping of the city’s natural, cultural and human resources;
(b) to reach consensus using participatory planning and stakeholder consultations on what values to protect for transmission to future generations and to determine the attributes that carry these values;
(c) to assess the vulnerability of these attributes to socio-economic pressures and impacts of climate change;
(d) to integrate urban heritage values and their vulnerability status into a wider framework of city development, which shall provide indications of areas of heritage sensitivity that require careful attention to planning, design and implementation of development projects;
(e) to prioritize actions for conservation and development;
(f) to establish the appropriate partnerships and local management frameworks for each of the identified projects for conservation and development, as well as to develop mechanisms for the coordination of the various activities between different actors, both public and private;”

All of these points that are very relevant to discussions at this Conference, and will need diligent consideration by all States Parties over the coming period.
As a result of these new influences, the author has found a need to change an original draft of this paper, since many of the points he wished to raise are so accurately described in the UNESCO resolution on Historic Urban Landscapes, the words are worth repeating, in part, in this paper.

To synthesize:
For a combination of causes, and different expressions of these causes, major cultural and environmental change, which may engender “urban development”, has continually occurred around the world, since the early history of humankind. Urban development is the obvious and visible product of change, technological, political and philosophical, within societies.
Those responsible for protecting cultural heritage and heritage places and monuments, recognize that the now unprecedented drive towards urbanism on this planet, requires a diligent, practical and widely culturally inclusive response.
Conservation may be defined as “management of change” and consideration is being given to ways in which we can manage the conservation of heritage within this exceptional global circumstance.

Across the world, the fast developing and developed nations are recognising the need for an urgent cultural response to mitigate the risks faced in the conservation of all aspects of heritage during this and all future periods of radical development.