



**OPEN LETTER TO THE METROPOLITAN MAYOR DR. JORGE MUÑOZ WELLS ON THE
INTERVENTION IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT / PLAZUELA DE SAN FRANCISCO
- HISTORIC CENTER OF LIMA**

Considering the demolition of the perimeter wall of the Monumental Complex of San Francisco in the city of Lima, carried out by the Metropolitan Council of Lima, on the morning (1:30 a.m.) of February 06, 2022, we want to express our concern for the following reasons

1. We deeply regret that an action intended to improve the conditions of the Historic Center of Lima has been carried out in a violent way, in an inappropriate schedule and without taking into account the difficult political and social circumstances that your country is going through, for which we express our Latin-American solidarity.
2. It is very important to highlight that on July 31 of the previous year, we organized the dialogue/action platform named "*Foro Latinoamericano de Patrimonio en riesgo centrado en las personas*" ("Latin American Forum on Heritage at Risk in a people-centered approach"), dedicated to the Historical Center of Lima. In this occasion, we could identify the concerns and points of view of the different stakeholders involved, such as the academic sector, neighbors, businessmen, professional unions, and architects. Unfortunately, the officials of the City Council of Lima and the Ministry of Culture were absent, despite the invitations sent. This attitude was interpreted, for all, as a synonym of disinterest.
3. Based on the reports we have received from our colleagues from the Peruvian National Committee and the information we have obtained from the complaints of various local stakeholders and sources consulted, we draw attention to the need to rethink the way in which the Historic Center of Lima, a property inscribed on the World Heritage List, is managed. We call on a governance that is based on a co-management format and that builds on a more participatory, dialogic, and inclusive governance to ensure the achievement of a different and more sustainable form of governance.
4. Knowing the different proposals presented by PROLIMA-MML, we would like to point out that the idea of "reconstruction and reinterpretation" of a parapet wall that existed in the viceregal period is considered a very controversial operation among contemporary experts and should be carried out only in very exceptional situations - such as in a war - which is clearly not the case here. If this act is carried out, it will modify the authenticity, required precisely for the properties inscribed in the List of Cultural Heritage of Humanity, in this case both the Historical Center of Lima and the Monumental Complex of San Francisco.
5. Finally, we strongly believe that issues related to public heritage spaces should be doubly transparent and discussed due to their dual public nature, precisely so that - beyond their legality- legitimacy is built from the necessary social appropriation of their actors. Unfortunately, this is not what we observed in this case.



We urge the Metropolitan Council of Lima to significantly correct its actions, considering its characteristic social representativeness, in order to integrate a participative management that takes into account all stakeholders. In this sense, as a network of specialists that have as goal the good management of the built heritage of our region, we put at your disposal our experts for a technical assistance to the municipal government, always trying to ensure that the actions of the local authorities are carried out jointly with the population, to promote their full enjoyment and solve this problem that concerns us all.

Architect Dr. Leonardo Barci Castriota

Vice President of ICOMOS for America and the Caribbean.

Belo Horizonte, Brazil, February 2022.