

H.E. Ms Monique Van Daalen  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of  
the Netherlands to UNESCO  
7, rue Eblé  
75007 Paris

20 December 2022

**Culture Sector  
World Heritage Centre**

Ref: CLT/WHC/EUR/22/14176

Dear Ambassador,

I gratefully acknowledge receipt of the state of conservation report submitted in response to the World Heritage Committee Decision 44 COM 8B.23 for the World Heritage property 'Dutch Water Defence Lines', inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996 and would like to thank you for its timely transmission.

This report, which has already been shared with ICOMOS International, will feed into the analysis of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies presented in the report on the state of conservation to be brought to the attention of the Committee at the relevant session.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that ICOMOS International has completed the Technical Review of the 'the Landscape Plan Connection A8-A9' within the World Heritage property 'Dutch Water Defence Lines', which you will find attached.

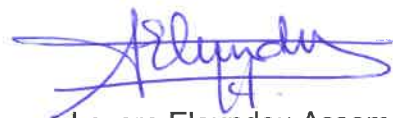
As you may read, ICOMOS notes that the revised Landscape Plan holds many benefits for the Outstanding Universal Value of this property. However, it considers that the proposed extension of the A8 road to connect with the A9 road (with the Golf Course Plan variant) will, in its current form, have a negative impact on the 'Dutch Water Defence Lines' World Heritage property. For this reason, ICOMOS advises not to proceed with the proposal and recommends that the State Party reconsider the plans for the connection of the A8 to the A9 roads and investigate alternative options.

Furthermore, ICOMOS reiterates its general recommendation concerning the property, as already provided in 2017 in its Advisory mission report on the property's proposed extension, namely 'that the improvement of the landscape quality around Fort Veldhuis and the property in general should be a goal in itself to strengthen' its Outstanding Universal Value and that 'This ambition should not be dependent on development projects that impact that same Outstanding Universal Value.'

The World Heritage Centre would like to encourage the State Party to follow the recommendations of ICOMOS included in its Technical Review (see Annex) when reconsidering the proposal for extending the A8 road to connect it to the A9 road. I would thus be grateful if you could share the enclosed ICOMOS Technical Review with your relevant authorities for their consideration and keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the follow-up provided to its recommendations.

I thank you for your continuous collaboration and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Lazare Eloundou Assomo  
Director

Enc.

cc.: Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO  
National Focal Point for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention  
ICOMOS