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Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry has highlighted the threats posed by terrorist groups that he said often resort to destroying antiquities and terrorize civilians.

Shoukry made the remarks during a conference held in New York under the rubric “Culture Under Threat: Antiquities Trafficking and Terrorist Financing.”

The conference was held under the patronage of UNESCO and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), according to the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Ahmed Abo Zeid in a statement issued here Friday.

Shoukry pointed out the danger posed by the Daesh group on the antiquities in Libya, Boko Haram in Nigeria, and al Qaida in other parts of the world.

Shoukry reviewed efforts exerted by Egypt to prevent the smuggling of antiquities and to protect the cultural heritage in Egypt and the Middle East.

The conference tackled ways to prevent the smuggling of and trading in antiquities in conflict-stricken areas in order to curb financing terrorism, Abo Zaid added.

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