

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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Special committee of government experts to prepare a draft convention and a draft recommendation to Member States concerning the protection of monuments, groups of buildings and sites

Unesco House, 4-22 April 1972

SHC-72/CONF.37/19 Add.2

DRAFT REPORT

(Addendum)

53. From the start of the discussions, delegates were unanimous in stressing the need to bring the content of the draft recommendation into line with that of the draft convention finalized by the Committee, and to achieve a balance between the provisions relating to the cultural heritage and those concerning the natural heritage. Referring to the time needed to establish such a balance, certain delegations proposed that the recommendation should apply only to the cultural heritage, and that a second recommendation be drafted to cover the natural heritage. This proposal was not, however, accepted by the majority of the delegations, who considered that a single recommendation covering both should be submitted to the seventeenth session of the General Conference in accordance with the terms of reference assigned to the Committee by 16 C/Resolution 3.412.

54. The Committee then decided to set up a third working group consisting of Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Nigeria, the United Kingdom and the United States. This working group was given the job of examining the provisions of the draft recommendation with a view to securing, in combined or separate chapters, a balance between the protection of the cultural heritage and that of the natural heritage. On the basis of the text prepared by this working group, the Committee then examined the recommendation paragraph by paragraph.

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55. During this examination it was requested that the following points be mentioned in the report:
- (a) the draft recommendation should include a definition of the term "protection" which, for the purposes of this instrument, covers the identification, study, conservation, restoration, development, rehabilitation and integration into the present-day life of the community of the cultural and natural heritage.
 - (b) the application of the recommendation should aim, in the spirit of the Venice Charter (1964), to ensure protection of the cultural heritage in its entirety; and
 - (c) "modest items" of the cultural heritage should be understood as meaning works of urban and rural architecture which help to create the historical climate.
56. Responsibility for preparing the text of the recommendation was given to a Drafting Committee composed of delegates of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Mexico, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States.
57. The draft recommendation adopted by the Committee is given in Annex II of this report.