



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee  
Second Session

Washington, D.C. (USA), 5 to 8 September 1978

Draft report of the World Heritage Committee to the General Conference of Unesco at its 20th session.

1. In accordance with Article 29.3 of the World Heritage Convention the World Heritage Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of Unesco.
2. The attached draft is submitted to the Committee for consideration.

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Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

SUMMARY

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was established under the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage adopted by the General Conference, at its seventeenth session, on 16 November 1972.

This report is submitted to the General Conference by the above-mentioned Committee in accordance with Article 29(3) of the aforesaid Convention which stipulates that "The Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization".

## Introduction

1. In conformity with the terms of Article 8(1) of the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage, (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), the first General Assembly of States Parties thereto elected on 26 November 1976 the following fifteen States Members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (called "the World Heritage Committee") : Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal, Tunisia, United States of America and Yugoslavia<sup>(1)</sup>.

2. The functions of the World Heritage Committee as stipulated in the Convention may be briefly summarized as follows:

- to draw up a World Heritage List, comprising those properties, cultural and natural, which the Committee considers to be of outstanding universal value in accordance with criteria adopted by it;

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(1) The terms of office of these States extend as follows :

- until the end of the 1978 General Conference of Unesco : France, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, Senegal ;
- until the end of the 1980 General Conference of Unesco : Ecuador, Ghana, Iran, Nigeria, Yugoslavia ;
- until the end of the 1982 General Conference of Unesco : Australia, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, United States.

- to prepare a list of World Heritage in Danger consisting of those properties on the World Heritage List which are threatened by serious and specific dangers, which for their protection, require major conservation measures and for which technical co-operation has been requested by the States Parties concerned under the World Heritage Fund;
- to determine in what way and under what conditions the World Heritage Fund resources can most advantageously be used; and
- to assist States Parties, as far as possible, in the protection of their properties of outstanding universal value.

3. Since its establishment, the Committee has met on two occasions: the first, in Paris, from 27 June to 1 July 1977 and the second, in Washington, D.C. United States of America, from 5 to 8 September 1978. The first meeting was mainly devoted to the elaboration of guidelines for the implementation of the Convention and to procedural matters, including the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. At the second session, the first decisions were taken by the Committee on cultural and natural properties to be included in the World Heritage List and on preparatory assistance and technical co-operation to be granted under the World Heritage Fund.

4. The Committee elected the following members of the Bureau:  
- for the period 27 June 1977 to 5 September 1978:

Chairman - Mr. Firouz Bagerzadeh (Iran)

Vice-Chairmen - Arab Republic of Egypt

France

Nigeria

Poland

Rapporteur - Mr. Peter H. Bennett (Canada)

- for the period 5 September 1978 until the beginning of the third  
ordinary session of the Committee:

Chairman - Mr. David Hales (United States of America)

Vice-Chairmen - Arab Republic of Egypt

Ecuador

France

Iran

Nigeria

Rapporteur - Prof. Krzysztof Pawlowski (Poland)

5. The following paragraphs describe the activities undertaken by the  
Committee since its inception and up to 8 September 1978.

I The World Heritage List

6. The Committee adopted, at its first session, a set of general principles governing the establishment of the World Heritage List, as well as two sets of criteria for the evaluation of properties of outstanding universal value, one set for cultural property and the other set for natural property. These criteria were communicated to all Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO (Ref. document CC-77/CONF. 001/8 Rev.).

7. As to the method to be adopted for the nomination of cultural and natural properties, the Committee decided that States Parties would be invited to present their proposals, together with all the information and documentation necessary to enable the Committee to judge the eligibility of property for inclusion in the World Heritage List. A precise list of the details and supporting documents to be provided by States Parties in this connection was drawn up by the Committee. A printed form was prepared on the basis of the Committee's decisions and forwarded in January 1978 to all States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations to the World Heritage List.

8. At the time of the Committee's second session, 51 nominations in all had been received from States Parties. Of these, 27 had reached the Secretariat in time for examination by the Bureau of the Committee at its first session on 8 and 9 June 1978. On that occasion, the Bureau decided to recommend that the Committee, at its second session, consider favourably a first group of cultural and natural properties.

9. (...) Add results of second session of World Heritage Committee.