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TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 2 - 3 November 1995  
Room XI

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

The Tenth General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

1. Having examined the document (WHC-95/CONF.204/7) submitted by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on "New monitoring activities related to the World Heritage sites" ;
2. Recalling that Strategic Goal 4 for the Implementation of the Convention adopted by the World Heritage Committee, at its sixteenth session in Santa Fe in 1992, calls for "a more systematic monitoring of World Heritage Sites" ;
3. Noting that, being aware of the need for meaningful and proper terminology, and after a long process of consultations, testing, and experimenting the method of work in several States Parties and regions, the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session in Phuket in 1994, conceived a systematic monitoring and reporting as the continuous process of observing the conditions of World Heritage sites with periodic reporting on the state of conservation by the States Parties concerned ;
4. Recalling the following relevant provisions of the Convention:

- (a) Article 4, which provides that each State Party to the Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the protection and conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and situated on its territory belongs primarily to that State ;
- (b) Article 6, paragraph 1, stating that "Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 is situated; and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate" ;
- (c) Article 7, stipulating that "international protection of the world cultural and natural heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of international co-operation and assistance designed to support States Parties to the Convention in their efforts to conserve ... that heritage" ;
- (d) the provision of Article 8 and the following articles under Part III concerning "Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" together with those under Part IV concerning "the World Heritage Fund" constituting the system of international co-operation and assistance as stipulated by Article 7 ;
- (e) Article 11, paragraph 7, laying down that "The Committee shall, with the agreement of the States concerned, co-ordinate and encourage the studies and research needed for the drawing up of the lists referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this Article" (The list referred to in paragraph 2 being the "World Heritage List", and the list in paragraph 4 being the "List of World Heritage in Danger") ; and, lastly,
- (f) the eighth preambular clause of the Convention expressing the intent to establish "an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods".

5. Considers that:

- (a) monitoring and periodic reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties are the appropriate modern and scientific means to meet the requirements and responsibilities of States Parties and the World Heritage Committee as stipulated by the above-cited provisions of the Convention for ensuring collective protection and conservation of properties on the World Heritage List ;
- (b) the establishment of systematic monitoring as an integral component of the day-to-day observation and management of World Heritage properties by the States Parties themselves, in close collaboration with the site managers or the agency with management authority, constitutes a meaningful, active and effective operational method capable of countering the dangers that may threaten the cultural and natural World Heritage;
- (c) systematic monitoring of World Heritage properties by the States Parties themselves is essential for the States Parties in order to be able to remedy serious problems of conservation and to plan for preventive conservation ; and
- (d) regular reporting on the state of conservation of properties to the World Heritage Committee by the States Parties is indispensable for the Committee to evaluate changes in the main characteristics of the properties since their inscription on the World Heritage List and to the Committee and the international community to fulfil its assigned functions, and essential for the Committee and the international community to set priorities for international collaboration and mobilization of resources for collective assistance.

6. Endorses the provisions on monitoring and reporting adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session and included in paragraphs 69 to 76 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Reaffirms that systematic monitoring of the conditions of World Heritage properties and periodic reporting on their state of conservation is the prime responsibility of the States on whose territory these properties are situated;

8. Invites States Parties to the Convention to make appropriate arrangements for monitoring the conditions of World Heritage properties on their territory and for taking timely measures to prevent their deterioration;
9. Invites States Parties to the Convention to submit at regular intervals, of every five years, to the World Heritage Committee through the World Heritage Centre scientific reports on the state of conservation of the properties situated on their territory, in a format to be established by the World Heritage Committee, so as to enable the Committee to carry out its assigned responsibilities;
10. Invites further States Parties to the Convention, independently of periodic reports of the state of conservation, to submit to the World Heritage Committee through the World Heritage Centre specific reports and impact studies each time exceptional circumstances occur, or work is undertaken which may have an effect on the state of conservation of the property;
11. Requests the World Heritage Committee to make the necessary arrangements to assist the States Parties, upon their requests, in the establishment of national monitoring mechanisms and in the preparation of periodic reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties;
12. Recommends that the World Heritage Committee keep the procedures for monitoring and reporting under constant review so that, when desirable, further elaboration and improvement could be made on the basis of the workings of these procedures.