

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-third session
Marrakesh, Morocco
29 November – 4 December 1999

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Report on the implementation of the regional activities described in the Global Strategy Action Plan adopted by the Committee at its twenty-second session.

SUMMARY

This addendum was prepared after the twelfth session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention which was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 28 and 29 October 1999, and which adopted a resolution on «The ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List» which appears as Annex II to the report of the General Assembly presented in Document WHC-99/CONF.209/7. The resolution identifies the partners involved in the process of the implementation of the Global Strategy and invites them to take action. The General Assembly also took note of a resolution prepared by the twenty-third session of the Bureau, to the Director-General of UNESCO.

Decision required: The Committee may wish to approve the means by which the different partners shall report upon the actions they have undertaken in following up on the two aforementioned resolutions.

1. The discussions of the General Assembly that preceded the adoption by consensus of the Resolution on «The ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List» are reproduced in paragraphs 40 to 48 of the Document WHC-99/CONF.209/7 and the adopted resolution in Annex II.

2. Paragraph 42: «*France's opinion that a strategy must be developed with three main components: (i) definition of the objectives, (ii) establishment of action plans with timetables, and (iii) an evaluation procedure, found an echo amongst the speakers who affirmed the need to move from recommendations to action*» requires a review of the means for collecting information on the actions to be undertaken by the partners mentioned in the resolution so as to permit a preliminary evaluation of the implementation of the Global Strategy at the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties to be held in 2001.

Consequently, the Committee might examine, amend and/or approve the following procedure that was established on the basis of the resolution adopted.

A. All States Parties may be called upon to report each year to the Committee on:

(i) significant activities having an impact on «*the adoption of a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes*» in accordance with Article 5 of the 1972 Convention;

(ii) the preparation or re-examination of: «*their tentative lists in the light of the methodology developed and regional and thematic definitions by focusing on categories of heritage which are still under-represented on the List*»;

iii) the preparation of nominations for inscription: «*resulting from regional consultations in the categories under-represented that highlight notably the interaction between human beings and their environment and human beings in society, expressing the diversity and richness of living or past cultures*».

B. Those States Parties already having a substantial number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List could be called upon to make a report to the Committee each year on:

(i) the measures undertaken, on a voluntary basis, to improve the representativity of the List;

(ii) bilateral co-operative activities that they have encouraged for the benefit of: «*those States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List in the framework of the preparation of tentative lists, nominations for inscription and training programmes* »;

(iii) the re-examination of their tentative lists «*within framework of regional meetings and the preparation of periodic reports* ».

C. States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List may be called upon to make a report, each year, to the Committee on:

- (i) at the national level, the measures they have undertaken to give *«priority to the preparation of tentative lists and nominations for inscription»*;
- (ii) at the regional level, on *«partnerships based on the exchange of technical expertise»*;
- (iii) at the international level, on *«bilateral and multilateral co-operation to increase their expertise and the technical capacities of the institutions responsible for the protection, safeguarding and management of their heritage»*;
- (iv) the efforts and assistance that have enabled them to participate in the meetings of the World Heritage Committee.

D. Advisory Bodies

In accordance with Chapter IX.21.6 of the Report of the twenty-second session of the Committee in 1998 which *«urged the advisory bodies to pursue further work on breaking down the themes into sub-themes, taking into consideration the recommendations of relevant expert meetings. Particular attention should be given to secure the highest level of scientific and technical consensus. The advisory bodies are asked to report on progress made and suggest any concrete decisions to be taken by future sessions of the Committee»*. This was reiterated in the text of the resolution, thus the Advisory Bodies could be called upon to report upon:

- (i) *«their thematic study programmes and the classification of the themes into sub-themes using the tentative lists prepared by the States Parties and the recommendations of the regional expert meetings»*; and
- (ii) *«the mechanisms to provide the experts of the under-represented regions on the List with the necessary training to prepare and evaluate the nominations for inscription and ensure the state of conservation of the properties»*.

E. The Committee could:

- (i) request the Secretariat to integrate the above-mentioned information into the regional action plans to be examined at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Committee.
- (ii) request the Secretariat to prepare a model for the evaluation of the actions undertaken notably by the States Parties, the advisory bodies, and the Secretariat, as well as the activities approved in the framework of Document WHC-99/CONF.209/8, and to submit it to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

F. The Secretariat of the Convention could be called upon to:

- (i) *«continue its collaboration with the advisory bodies in the framework of the regional consultations»;*
- (ii) request, by circular letter, States Parties, to provide information on the actions they have taken at the national level;
- (iii) *«ensure that the human resources designated to carry out the Action Plan are coherent with the objectives to be achieved»;*
- (iv) disseminate to donor agencies the text of the adopted resolution so that they give *«priority to actions undertaken in the States Parties where heritage is still under-represented on the List, for the implementation of the Global Strategy»;*
- (v) keep the Committee and/or the Bureau informed on the report *«on the state of progress of the regional and pluri-annual Action Plan »* which will be submitted to the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties.

3. The General Assembly also adopted by consensus the following resolution, which was presented by its President:

"The General Assembly of States Parties:

Underlining the importance of an equitable representation of the World Heritage Committee and the need to increase the number of its members,

Taking into consideration the intervention of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on this subject,

Requests the World Heritage Committee:

- a) to set up a working group to study this question and to submit proposals to the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties,*
- b) to request the inscription of an item on the agenda of the thirty-first General Conference concerning this issue."*

4. The Committee might decide that this reflection be taken up in the framework of the deliberations of the Strategic Working Group, ref. Document WHC-99/CONF.209/9.