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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fifth session

Helsinki, Finland
11-16 December 2001

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Report on Reform Issues

SUMMARY

This document is presented in two sections:

Putting Reform into Action

A brief progress report on implementation of key reform issues

The Way Forward

Principles, Programmes and Partnerships

Decision required:

The Committee is requested to (i) note the reform progress report (see Section II) and (ii) adopt the strategic directions for reform for 2002 and 2003 (see Section III).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. BACKGROUND

II. PUTTING REFORM INTO ACTION

World Heritage statutory meetings, documentation and communication

World Heritage statutory meetings

- Cycle and calendar
- Sub-committees
- Biennial budget
- A and B decision-making
- International assistance
- Revised timetable for Periodic Reporting
- Committee venue, June 2002
- Agenda for the Committee, June 2002

Documentation

- Documents for the Committee and Bureau
- Number of documents
- New category of WEB documents
- Decision-making guide
- Redesigned nomination and international assistance documents

Communication

- Information meetings

Representivity of the World Heritage List

- Nominations 2002
- Nominations 2003

Equitable Representation of the Committee

- Review of the voting system to elect new members of the Committee

III. THE WAY FORWARD

Introduction

Principles

Programmes

Partnerships

ANNEX I World Heritage Conservation Guidelines

ANNEX II World Heritage Partners Initiative

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its twenty-fourth session in Cairns (December, 2000) the Committee prepared decisions on a number of reform issues after having examined the recommendations of the following four reform groups:

Task Force on the implementation of the Convention

Working Group on the Representativity of the World Heritage List

Working Group on Equitable Representation in the World Heritage Committee

International Expert Meeting on the Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, Canterbury, United Kingdom (10-14 April 2000)

II. PUTTING REFORM INTO ACTION

World Heritage statutory meetings, documentation and communication

2. Proposals deriving from the Task Force for the Implementation of the Convention, led to practical measures to reform the calendar and cycle of, and documentation for, World Heritage Statutory Meetings (see Paragraph VI.2, Section 1 of the Cairns Committee report - WHC-2000/CONF.204/21).

3. At the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (June 2001) the Director of the Centre made a Powerpoint presentation entitled "Putting Reform into Action" (see Section III of WHC-2001/CONF.208/3). This report on the implementation of reform measures is updated below:

World Heritage statutory meetings

Cycle and calendar

Following the decision of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns 2000), as of 2002 the schedule of World Heritage Bureau and Committee meetings will be changed from a June/November cycle to an April/June cycle and extraordinary sessions of the Bureau will be abolished.

Sub-committees

A decision concerning the introduction of a sub-committee system was deferred by the Committee in Cairns. However, the Director of the Centre reminded the Bureau in June 2001 that Paragraph 131 of the *Operational Guidelines* already foresees the constitution of sub-committees during its regular sessions:

"131. As provided for in Article 10.3 of the Convention and in accordance with Rules 20-21 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee shall constitute sub-committees during its regular sessions to examine selected items of business referred to them with the object of reporting and making recommendations to the full Committee for action."

Biennial budget

As foreseen by the Director of the Centre at the Bureau session in June 2001, the first biennial budget (2002-2003) is presented to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee (see WHC-01/CONF.208/18).

A and B decision-making

The Committee's request for an Item A and B system of decision-making has not yet been introduced (A: items which are the subject of consensus for adoption and B: items requiring discussion by the Committee).

International Assistance

At the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau (June 2001) the Director of the Centre commented that with the Bureau and Committee meetings taking place in April and June, and extraordinary sessions of the Bureau having been abolished as of 2002, there will be a 10-month lag on decision-making for International Assistance requests that can currently be approved by the Bureau.

At the same session the Delegate of Canada suggested that requests could be approved during the 10-month period from the Committee to the next Bureau through a consultation process among the Bureau members, and hence it is not necessary to modify the ceilings.

Despite this comment, the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau (June 2001) recommended to the Committee that the ceilings be raised for international assistance requests, for preparatory assistance from US\$ 20,000 to US\$ 25,000 (Chair), and from US\$ 30,000 to US\$ 40,000 (Bureau), and for emergency assistance from US\$ 50,000 to US\$ 60,000 (Chair), and from US\$ 75,000 to US\$ 100,000 (Bureau) (see WHC-2001/CONF.208/18)

Revised timetable for Periodic Reporting

Following the change to the cycle and calendar of statutory meetings from 2002, Asian States Parties at the Periodic Reporting meeting in Indonesia (April 2001) requested that the timetable for Periodic Reporting be adjusted (see WHC-2001/CONF.208/8).

Committee venue, June 2002

In June 2001 the Director of the Centre informed the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau that the venue of the June 2002 Committee session needed to be confirmed. The Chairperson wrote to the 21 members of the Committee in June 2001 asking for their written determination, in principle, for Hungary to host the twenty-sixth session of the Committee in June 2002 as had been proposed by the Hungarian Government. All Committee members confirmed their support, either in writing or by telephone.

In accordance with Rules 4.1 and 4.2 of the *Rules of Procedure*, the twenty-fifth session of the Committee will need to make the final determination of the date and place of the next session.

Agenda for the Committee, June 2002

In June 2001 the Director of the Centre proposed that the Committee in June 2002 could include strategic reflection on the development of the Information Management System, training and education for World Heritage, effective technical assistance to sites, monitoring technologies for World Heritage sites and a 2002 Declaration.

Documentation

Documents for the Committee and Bureau

With only 8 weeks between the Bureau and the Committee as of 2002 the same documents will go to the Bureau and the Committee with the only new document for the Committee being the Report of the Rapporteur of the Bureau.

Number of documents

There was a reduction in the number of working documents for the Bureau session compared to the Bureau session in June 2000. 2001 Bureau - 10 Working Documents, 2000 Bureau - 17 Working Documents.

New category of WEB documents

A new category of WEB documents was experimented for the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau. Comments received by the World Heritage Centre from members of the Bureau indicated that the category was not useful. They indicated that paper copies of all meeting documents are required and that the documents should also be made available electronically.

Decision-making guide

The first decision-making guide was prepared for the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in June 2001. Comments received by the World Heritage Centre from members of the Bureau indicated that this was a successful initiative. A decision-making guide has therefore been prepared for the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau (WHC-01/CONF.207/2) and twenty-fifth session of the Committee (WHC-01/CONF.208/2).

Redesigned nomination and international assistance documents

The nomination and international assistance documents have been redesigned (see WHC-01/CONF.208/12 and 20).

Communication

Information meetings

A World Heritage information meeting with the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of States Parties to the Convention was held on 16 February 2001. Scheduling and logistic difficulties meant that a second information meeting could not take place in November 2001 as planned. An information meeting will be organised early in 2002.

Representivity of the World Heritage List

4. At its twenty-fourth session (Cairns, 2000), the Committee adopted a decision aimed at ensuring the representation of sites from all regions on the World Heritage List. The Committee's decision made reference to the Resolution of the 12th General Assembly (1999) on *Ways and means to ensure a Representative World Heritage List* and the recommendations of the Working Group on Representivity of the World Heritage List (see Paragraph VI.2, Section 3 of the Cairns Committee report - WHC-2000/CONF.204/21).

5. In summary, the Committee decision calls for:

- (a) respect of the provisions of the *Convention*;
- (b) greater use and analyses of tentative lists;
- (c) a limit on the maximum number of nominations to be examined by the Committee at each session;
- (d) States Parties to report on measures taken to implement the General Assembly Resolution of 1999;
- (e) States Parties with a substantial number of sites on the World Heritage List to look at ways of applying Paragraph 6 (vii) of the *Operational Guidelines*; and,
- (e) greater emphasis on capacity-building for regions whose heritage is under-represented on the World Heritage List.

6. In October 2001 the 13th General Assembly took note of the decision adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee. A number of States Parties expressed their profound support for the decision as a concrete series of measures to improve the representivity of the List. The importance of establishing clear criteria for the selection of the limited number of nominations to be examined by the Committee each year was emphasized. Some States Parties expressed the need for caution to ensure that properties of outstanding universal value are not excluded from consideration just because a State Party already has a site on the World Heritage List. In conclusion the General Assembly noted that the process of selection must be inclusive not exclusive and needs to be conceived in consultation with States Parties.

7. The implications of these reforms to the nominations to be examined in 2002 and 2003 can be summarized as follows:

Nominations 2002

In 2002 the following nominations will be examined:

- Full and complete nominations received by the World Heritage Centre prior to 31 December 2000 (13 nominations)
- Deferred and referred nominations from previous meetings
- Changes to the boundaries of already inscribed sites (for example, extensions)
- Emergency cases - situations falling under paragraph 67 of the *Operational Guidelines* (March 1999).

Nominations 2003

In 2003 the following nominations will be examined:

- Nominations received by 1 February 2002
- A maximum of 30 new sites to be examined (see WHC-01/CONF.208/12 Add.)
- No State Party to submit more than one nomination, except those with no inscribed sites may submit 2 or 3 nominations
- Sites from any State Party that illustrate an un-represented or less represented category of natural and cultural properties as determined by analyses prepared by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies and reviewed and approved by the Committee

8. In the first instance and on an interim basis the number of nominations to be examined by the twenty-seventh session in 2003 will be limited to a maximum of 30 new properties. The Committee will give priority to examining nominations of properties submitted by a State Party with no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Priority will also be given to nominations of properties that illustrate un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties. A proposal for the implementation of this priority scheme is presented in WHC-01/CONF.208/12 Add.

Equitable Representation of the Committee

9. At its twenty-fourth session (Cairns, 2000), the Committee prepared a Draft Resolution based on the work of a Working Group that had developed options on Equitable Representation within the World Heritage Committee following a request by the 12th session of the General Assembly (1999) (see Paragraph VI.2, Section 2 of the Cairns Committee report - WHC-2000/CONF.204/21). The Draft Resolution was examined and adopted by the 13th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in October 2001.

10. In summary the Resolution calls for voluntary reduction of term of office on the Committee from six to four years and discouragement of States Parties seeking consecutive terms of office. The second part of the Resolution calls for a change in the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly whereby a seat will be reserved for States Parties with no sites on the World Heritage List, and other changes to the electoral process.

11. Following adoption of the Resolution it came into immediate effect and Santa Lucia was elected to the seat reserved for a State Party with no sites on the World Heritage List.

12. Following the example set by Italy at the 12th General Assembly (1999) seven of the new Committee members (Argentina, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) announced their intention to voluntarily reduce their term on the Committee from six to four years.

13. The text of the Resolution of the 13th General Assembly is reproduced below:

The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

Recalling Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention which stipulates that “Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world”;

Recalling Article 9 of the Convention which stipulates that “The term of office of States members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session”;

Recalling the Resolution of the 7th General Assembly of States Parties (1989);

Considering the representivity of the World Heritage List could be enhanced through the increased participation in the work of the Committee of States Parties whose heritage is currently unrepresented in the List;

Considering that the strong interest of States Parties in participating in the work of the World Heritage Committee could be addressed by a more frequent rotation of Committee members;

Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years;

Encourages States Parties that are not members of the Committee to make use of their right to participate in meetings of the World Heritage Committee as observers;

Discourages States Parties from seeking consecutive terms of office in the World Heritage Committee;

Decides that before each election of Committee members, the President of the General Assembly of States Parties will inform States Parties of the situation of the representation of regions and cultures in the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage List;

Decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:

New Rule to be inserted after Rule 13.1

A certain number of seats may be reserved for States Parties who do not have sites on the World Heritage List, upon decision of the World Heritage Committee at the session that precedes the General Assembly. Such a ballot for reserved seats would precede the open ballot for the

remaining seats to be filled. Unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot would be eligible to stand in the open ballot.

Amendment to existing Rule 13.8 (new text in bold)

13.8 Those States obtaining in the first ballot the required majority shall be elected, unless the number of States obtaining that majority is greater than the number of seats to be filled. In that case, the States obtaining the greatest number of votes, up to the number of seats to be filled, shall be declared elected. ~~If the number of States obtaining the majority required is less than the number of seats to be filled, there shall be a second ballot, followed by a third and, if necessary a fourth, to fill the remaining seats.~~ **If the number of States obtaining the majority required is less than the number of seats to be filled, there shall be a second ballot. If the number of States obtaining the majority required is still less than the number of seats to be filled there shall be a third and, if necessary a fourth ballot, to fill the remaining seats. For the third and fourth ballots, the voting shall be restricted to the States obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, up to a number twice that of the seats remaining to be filled.**

Decides that this resolution should be implemented immediately.

Proposed changes to the system of voting for new members of the Committee

14. The 13th General Assembly also adopted the following Resolution requesting the World Heritage Centre to review the mechanics of the system of voting for new members of the Committee:

The 13th General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage requests the Secretariat to review the mechanics of the system of voting for new members of the Committee. Proposals for a more time efficient and simplified voting system should be submitted for review by the twenty-seventh session of the World Heritage Committee in 2003 and decision by the 14th General Assembly in 2003.

III. THE WAY FORWARD

Introduction

15. At the opening of the Fifth Extraordinary Session of the World Heritage Committee (Paris, 1 November 2001) held immediately following the 13th General Assembly of States Parties, the Chairperson of the Committee, Dr Christina Cameron (Canada) made a brief opening speech. The speech included the following statement on reform and possible future strategic directions for the Committee:

"The 13th Session of the General Assembly of States Parties marked the culmination of a significant period of reform. It was in 1996 at the meeting in Merida, Mexico, that the World Heritage Committee initiated a wide-ranging audit of management practices and financial matters related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

This audit eventually evolved into the reform agenda with its four working groups. These focussed on (i) implementation of the World Heritage Convention, (ii) equitable representation on the World Heritage Committee, (iii) representativity of the World Heritage List, and (iv) revision to the Operational Guidelines. The successful outcome of this work can be measured by the General Assembly's endorsement and approval of the many reform proposals put before it in the last two days. What was even more striking and satisfying was the spirit of cooperation shown by so many States Parties at the General Assembly.

While a few reform matters remain for the new Committee, in particular the work relating to the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, it is now time for the World Heritage Committee to set some new strategic goals. While it will be the prerogative of the new Committee to elaborate them, might I suggest some possible ideas for a new strategic platform for the Committee's work? With reform now behind us, I would like to suggest four areas where much remains to be done.

First, there is a need to focus more closely on the conservation needs of those sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Secondly, greater efforts need to be made to support the Global Strategy. Third, there is a need to address the funding issue, in part by aligning the World Heritage Fund with our strategic priorities, in part by exploring new avenues for securing significant new funds through partnerships, foundations, extra-budgetary initiatives and other means. Finally, the new Committee would make an important contribution to guide the implementation of the Convention throughout the world by developing principles for World Heritage conservation or a World Heritage Charter for conservation. Your deliberations will make an important contribution to World Heritage conservation in all regions of the world."

16. In reflecting on these words, a three part framework for continuing reform is proposed for adoption by the Committee. The reform framework is composed of three structural components - **Principles, Programmes and Partnerships**.

Principles

17. At its twenty-fourth session (Cairns, 2000) the Committee established a timetable and workplan for the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* based on the work of an Expert Meeting held in Canterbury, the United Kingdom in April 2000 (see Paragraph VI.2, Section 4 of the Cairns Committee report - WHC-2000/CONF.204/21).

18. A progress report on the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* is presented in WHC-2001/CONF.208/6.

19. In addition to the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, there is a need for greater emphasis on the **principles** to guide the conservation of World Heritage sites. **Annex I** provides an outline for the further development of such principles in the form of World Heritage Conservation Guidelines that could be elaborated by the World Heritage Centre in 2002 in co-operation with the Advisory Bodies, for presentation to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee in June 2002.

World Heritage Conservation Guidelines

Aim:

- to provide a statement of principles to guide the conservation of World Heritage properties

Programmes

20. In his report to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau (June 2001) the Director of the World Heritage Centre stressed that he was of the view that international assistance funding from the World Heritage Fund should be managed more strategically. In particular, he expressed the need for more flexibility, focusing on long-term impact with programmes that are coherent and preferably co-financed.

21. The proposed programmes will shift the focus to the management and conservation of existing World Heritage properties. The programmes will build on pilot projects and lessons learnt to develop conservation skills and techniques based on agreed principles and guidelines and involving a diversity of partners.

22. The establishment and implementation of priority actions for the conservation of World Heritage through a system of **programmes** are proposed in **WHC-01/CONF.208/19**.

World Heritage Programmes

Rationale:

- need for strategic use of the World Heritage Fund
- to ensure long-term sustainability of technical assistance
- to improve flexibility and speed of emergency actions
- reorganise reactive international assistance into proactive long-term programmes

Characteristics of the Programmes:

- coherent with overall mission of the *World Heritage Convention*
- to benefit properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List
- global in scope based on tangible local actions
- long-term (10 years)
- co-financed with bilateral and private sector
- partnership approach

Initial proposals

Forests

Tourism

Cities

Earthen Heritage

Partnerships

23. During recent discussions in the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau (June 2001) and the 13th General Assembly of States Parties (October 2001) many States Parties have indicated the need to develop alternative ways to structure and manage the World Heritage Fund in order to enhance its catalytic potential for World Heritage conservation and to reinforce the resource base for World Heritage conservation through a partners initiative (see **Annex II**).

24. It is vital to mobilise resources to consolidate and expand existing levels of technical and administrative expertise and financial assistance to safeguard the proper management of World Heritage cultural and natural heritage sites. Although co-operation with non state actors raises its own set of strategic and practical challenges, it is increasingly necessary for the United Nations, and its agencies, are to remain relevant and effective in meeting the real needs of the people of today's world.

World Heritage Partners Initiative

Aims

- to extend the potential of the existing system
- to create a framework through which a wide range of governmental and non-governmental, private sector and civil society institutions and individuals are invited to become involved in World Heritage conservation

Key components

- an activity framework
- establishment of criteria for co-operation with partners on projects

WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

Principles for conservation of World Heritage Properties

The most commonly asked question from managers of newly-designated World Heritage property is the following:

“Now that our site has been designated as World Heritage, what special measures does the World Heritage Committee expect us to take to protect the site for all humanity?”

The *World Heritage Convention* is an international agreement dedicated to the **protection** of World Heritage properties. At the outset, implementation of the *Convention* naturally focussed on the identification of outstanding cultural and natural heritage places, to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. This identification activity has fostered significant international reflection on criteria for designation to the World Heritage List and a thematic framework to encourage nomination of properties from under and non-represented categories of heritage and in under-represented regions, now known as the World Heritage Global Strategy.

As the World Heritage movement matures, it is natural to shift focus from designation to on-going management of properties. Inscription and designation as World Heritage occurs at one specific point in time; protection is a continuous activity that precedes and follows designation. As part of the reform agenda for World Heritage, work is underway to revise the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. One of the revisions calls for an explicit statement of Outstanding Universal Values for each World Heritage property. This statement of values is intended to serve as the framework to support the site management processes. What the World Heritage movement still needs is a statement of principles that will guide the conservation activities undertaken to protect sites of Outstanding Universal Value.

Many international charters and documents exist, containing principles, standards and guidelines for the protection of various aspects of natural and cultural heritage. ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN and other professional organizations have adopted such charters over the years to guide heritage management activities. These include:

- 1964 International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter) (ICOMOS)
- 1982 The Florence Charter (Historic Gardens and Landscapes) (ICOMOS)
- 1987 Charter on the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (ICOMOS)
- 1990 Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage (ICOMOS)
- 1996 Charter for the Protection and Management of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICOMOS)

- 1999 International Charter on Cultural Tourism (ICOMOS)
- 1999 Principles for the Preservation of Historic Timber Structures (ICOMOS)
- 1999 Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage (ICOMOS)
- 1993 Guidelines on Management Planning for Ramsar Sites and Other Wetlands (RAMSAR)
- 1998 Guidelines for Protected Area Managers (IUCN)
- 1999 Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas (IUCN)

In addition, many States Parties have developed national standards and practices. Dating from different time periods and prepared from specific viewpoints, this plethora of charters and documents contain overlaps, duplications, contradictions and internal inconsistencies. As such, no single standard-setting instrument exists that would help States Parties to answer questions about special protection measures for World Heritage properties.

The creation of a set of conservation principles – perhaps called the World Heritage Conservation Charter or Guidelines – would be based on best practices in existing charters and national policies. Such a Charter or Guidelines would help to clarify the World Heritage Committee's expectations for the ongoing management of World Heritage Sites and provide guidance to site managers who are entrusted with the management of these valued places.

World Heritage Partners Initiative

A Proposal to extend UNESCO action for World Heritage conservation

Background

Since its adoption by UNESCO in November 1972, the World Heritage Convention has had an enormous impact on the identification, protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage sites considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. With 167 States Parties and 690 sites inscribed in the World Heritage List, its role as the pre-eminent international legal tool for conservation is well established.

The World Heritage Convention established a World Heritage Fund, currently totalling about US\$4 million per year, and composed of compulsory contributions from the States Parties, voluntary contributions from countries and other donors and from fund raising activities. This Fund is largely used to assist States Parties in preserving the World Heritage sites in their country.

The challenge

Ensuring that World Heritage sites sustain the outstanding universal values for which they have been designated is an increasingly complex challenge. 30 of the 690 World Heritage sites have been formally declared as World Heritage in Danger; many others face ascertained and potential threats to their long-term integrity and survival. The effects of urban development, exponential increases in tourism, deterioration and, occasionally, wanton destruction increasingly threaten cultural sites, while natural sites are threatened by the impact of infrastructure construction, improper use, tourist development, pollution and the long-term effects of climate change.

If left unchecked these threats will increase. It is therefore vital to mobilise resources to consolidate and expand existing levels of technical and administrative expertise and financial assistance to safeguard the proper management of these outstanding cultural and natural heritage sites.

The stark reality is that the interventions permitted by the World Heritage Convention are no longer sufficient in themselves to safeguard the preservation of World Heritage. The challenge for UNESCO and other development institutions, and public and private bodies committed to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage is to identify new, innovative and more powerful models for doing so.

Although co-operation with non state actors raises its own set of strategic and practical challenges, it is increasingly necessary for the United Nations, and its agencies, are to remain relevant and effective in meeting the real needs of the people of today's world.

The proposal

Article 7 of the World Heritage Convention recognises the need for States Parties, as the principle stakeholders in the conservation of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, to work with a range of partners:

“For the purposes of this Convention, 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 and identify that heritage”

One of the most significant examples of such cooperation arose during 1996-1998 when the World Heritage Committee looked to the Government of Ecuador to draft and adopt special legislation for conserving the Galapagos Islands. In doing so it depended on parallel, supportive actions from several Partners including:

- Local authorities representing the people of the Galapagos Province;
- Tourism, fisheries and other private sector enterprises;
- Ecuadorian and international conservation NGOs;
- The International donor community, including Foundations, for financing special conservation actions.

Since then, the World Heritage Centre has established partnerships with a number of groups to generate benefits for World Heritage conservation that extend beyond individual properties and contribute towards the building of “*system of international co-operation and assistance*” envisaged under Article 7 of the Convention. The following are examples of on-going activities:

- Selected local authorities within France co-operate with their counterparts in less developed countries like Laos and Vietnam under a France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement for the conservation of Monumental, Urban and Natural Heritage;
- Tourism sector consortia, e.g. TEMA of Scandinavia and the UNEP/UNESCO/WTO Tour Operators Initiative (TOI), as well as enterprises such as the London-Bureau of Japan Tourism Bureau (JTB) are contributing to specific World Heritage conservation actions; private sector co-operative ventures between the Centre and Television and Media companies have been operational for more than 10 years;
- International conservation NGOs, e.g. the Getty Conservation Institute, WWF and Conservation International are supporting Centre’s efforts to conserve World Heritage sites in selected countries and regions; and
- The UN Foundation has a special programme of grant-support to promote conservation of World Heritage sites of global biodiversity significance;
- Bi-lateral donor institutions from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands are contributing to specific World Heritage conservation actions throughout the world.

A World Heritage Partners Initiative

The experience and insights gained in developing these and other partnerships has led the World Heritage Centre to propose launching a World Heritage Partners Initiative to extend the potential of the existing system and create a framework through which a wide range of governmental and non-governmental, private sector and civil society

institutions and individuals are invited to become involved in the World Heritage conservation process. The initiative will include an activity framework and establish criteria for co-operation with partners on projects to be carried out through this network, including the development of appropriate regulations and procedures. These will be developed by the World Heritage Centre in partnership with other sectors of UNESCO, according to the directions of UNESCO, of the World Heritage Committee and the practice currently under development within the UN system.

Categories of partners

The following categories of partners are foreseen:

- Bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies
- Local and regional authorities
- National regional and local NGOs, Foundations, Educational Institutions
- Corporate entities

Indeed, potential partners representing media and communications, higher and vocational education, social services, energy, and other sectors have already expressed interest in developing working arrangements with the Centre. Many of these partners are attracted by the possibility of being associated with the prestigious World Heritage Convention as the highest standard setting instrument for setting high global conservation efforts.

Categories of initiatives

Two broad categories of initiatives are foreseen:

- One where the Centre will take the lead in designing and implementing research and training, data base establishment and management, education and awareness building, institutional strengthening, networking and other activities targeted to build World Heritage site management capacity; and
- The other where the Centre will facilitate alliance or consortium partners to provide direct support to States Parties on a range of activities such as: identification and nomination of new sites; global thematic studies and analyses; site management plans and capacity building; networking World Heritage and other sites of regional, national and local significance.

These may be provided through:

- direct cash or in-kind (staff, specialists, materials etc) support to Centre-led initiatives for effective World Heritage site conservation; or
- direct support to recipient countries and sites inviting the Centre's collaboration for information sharing and for programme design, monitoring and evaluation;

The World Heritage Centre, in consultation with its advisory bodies, will be responsible for the overall co-ordination and management of the World Heritage Partners Initiative. An advisory board will be set up to guide the development of the

initiative and review the Centre's achievements and progress made as well as difficulties and problems encountered.

The ultimate authority for the oversight of the initiative will be the World Heritage Committee, who will be kept fully informed of the design, execution and management and results and outcome of the initiative.

Conclusion

In establishing a World Heritage Partners Initiative the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage Centre will be engaging in a genuine, sharing, relationship with the civil society, including the private sector. This is entirely consistent with vision set out by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, in launching a "Global Compact" with the private sector in July 2000. Its aim is to challenge world business leaders to build the social and environmental pillars required to sustain the global economy and to make it work for all the world's people. Given the appropriately ambitious goals set by most UN programmes and agendas, partnerships are now widely regarded as an essential tool for operational effectiveness.

The formal launch of a World Heritage Partners initiative in connection with the commemoration of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Convention in 2002 therefore provides an opportunity to the Convention's call to develop a "system of international co-operation and assistance" a reality.

Work plan for World Heritage Partners Initiative

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| September- November 2001: | Project concept development and discussions in the World Heritage Centre and with UNESCO stakeholders. |
| December 2001: | Presentation of proposal to the World Heritage Committee; |
| January - June 2002: | Development of the concept and financing strategy;

Begin process of identifying new partners |
| June 2002: | Submission of results of discussions and recommendations to the Committee |
| July - October 2002: | Set up World Heritage Partners |
| 16 November 2002: | Venice International Congress: Official launching and adoption of an Action Plan for 2003 – 2005. Announcement of new partnerships |