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**WHC-01/CONF.209/2
Paris, 2 November 2001
Original : English/French**

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Fifth extraordinary session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
1 November 2001**

Report of the Rapporteur

I. Opening of the Session

1. The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Dr Christina Cameron (Canada) replacing Mr Peter King (Australia), opened the fifth extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee. Dr Cameron thanked H.E. M. Samuel Fernández-Illanes (Chile) for his skilful leadership as President of the 13th General Assembly of States Parties, held on 30 and 31 October 2001. She also welcomed the eight new members of the Committee, namely, Argentina, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, and the United Kingdom all of whom were elected by the 13th General Assembly. A copy of the speech of Dr Cameron is attached as Annex I.

2. The session was attended by all members of the Committee, namely Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

II. Election of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee

3. The Chairperson recalled that the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee consists of:

- the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee
- the Rapporteur
- five Vice-Chairpersons

4. The Committee elected Mr Henrik Lilius (Finland) as Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and Mr Francisco Lopez Morales (Mexico) as Rapporteur. The Vice-Presidents elected were: Egypt, Greece, Hungary, South Africa and Thailand.

5. Several delegates, in supporting the election of the Chairperson, referred to his outstanding commitment to World Heritage and to his outstanding professional qualifications and experience. Mr Henrik Lilius (Finland) thanked the Committee for its warm support in his election as Chairperson and the honour they had bestowed upon him. He noted that his task would be difficult and that he would need the support of the Bureau and Secretariat to fulfil his duties. He thanked Dr Cameron for her opening speech in which she had made suggestions for the strategic agenda for the Committee sessions in Helsinki, Budapest and the future.

III. Closure of the session

6. The Chairperson recalled that the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Helsinki, Finland from 11 to 16 December 2001 and that the newly elected Bureau will meet on 7 and 8 December 2001. He said that he looked forward to welcoming the World Heritage Committee to Helsinki in December.

7. Several delegates again congratulated the new Chairperson and the other new members of the Bureau noting that a geographical distribution in membership had been achieved.

8. The representative of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs suggested that, in the absence of the former and newly elected Rapporteurs, the new Chairperson be asked to approve the record of the meeting.

9. Mr Francesco Bandarin, the Director of the World Heritage Centre, thanked the outgoing members of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Morocco and Zimbabwe) for their valuable work over the last year.

10. The Chairperson then declared the session closed.

**SPEECH OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
(DR CHRISTINA CAMERON, CANADA)**

Members of the World Heritage Committee
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Permanent Delegates and Observers
Mr Bandarin
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to welcome you to the Fifth Extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee.

First of all I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate the eight new members of the World Heritage Committee, who were elected during the 13th General Assembly of States Parties just yesterday.

The sole purpose of this extraordinary Committee session is to elect the new Bureau of the Committee. The seven member Bureau will be composed of a Chairperson, five Vice-chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

The new Bureau will meet in extraordinary session on 7 and 8 December 2001 and the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee from 11 to 16 December 2001 in Helsinki.

Before proceeding to the election of the new Bureau, I would like to take a moment to pause and reflect on our achievements over the last few years. 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.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Peter King (Australia) who has been our Chairperson for the last year. And, on Mr King's behalf I thank all members of the Committee, Bureau and Observer Delegations for their work. A special word of thanks to the out-going Rapporteur, Mr Dawson Munjeri of Zimbabwe. In addition, I would also like to express our appreciation to the three Advisory Bodies, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, as well as the Director and staff of the World Heritage Centre for their excellent professional support to this Convention.

Finally, I would like to wish you every success in your deliberations in Helsinki and your continuing commitment to the full application of the *Convention*.

Thank you.