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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII

30 –31 October 2001

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Elections to the World Heritage Committee

1. Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stipulates:

"1. 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."

2. Since the thirtieth session of the General Conference, the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following twenty-one States Parties:

Australia	Greece
Belgium	Hungary
Benin	Italy
Canada	Malta
China	Mexico
Colombia	Morocco
Cuba	Portugal
Ecuador	Republic of Korea
Egypt	South Africa
Finland	Thailand
	Zimbabwe

3. The above twenty-one members of the Committee were elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention at its tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions held respectively on 2 and 3 November 1995, 28 and 29 October 1997 and 28 and 29 October 1999.

According to the terms of Article 9, paragraph 1, of the World Heritage Convention, the terms of office of the members listed below extend as follows:

- i) until the end of the thirty-first session of the General Conference (2001): Australia, Benin, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Malta, Morocco;
- ii) until the end of the thirty-second session of the General Conference (2003): Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Zimbabwe.
- iii) Until the end of the thirty-third session of the General Conference (2005): Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Italy¹, Portugal, South Africa.

4. The present General Assembly is called to elect seven members of the World Heritage Committee in replacement of the seven members mentioned under point (i) paragraph 3 above and taking account of the footnote in point (iii) of paragraph 3 above.

5. It should be recalled that paragraph 5 of Article 16 of the Convention stipulates that "*Any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee(...). The terms of office of any such State which is already a member of the Committee shall terminate at the time of the elections provided for in Article 8, paragraph 1, of this Convention.*" The statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions of the States Parties appears in working document WHC-2001/CONF.206/3B. This document thus indicates, as at the date of its preparation, which States Parties have the right to participate in the elections. All compulsory or voluntary contributions received after that date should be reported orally to the General Assembly.

6. The *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention* were adopted by the Second General Assembly of States Parties in 1978 and amended by the tenth General Assembly of States Parties in 1995, and the twelfth General Assembly in 1999.

7. Document WHC-2001/CONF.206/6 presents the decision of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000) in the form of a Draft Resolution for the General Assembly. It includes a proposal to change Rule 13.1 and Rule 13.8 of the *Rules of Procedure*. The Committee's decision is made in an attempt to ensure equitable representation in the World Heritage Committee. The Committee decision calls for the resolution, if adopted by the General Assembly, to be implemented immediately.

¹ In his speech to the Twelfth General Assembly, the President of the General Assembly referred to the growing number of nominations, the imbalances of the List, and emphasised the need to tackle these problems not just with words, but also with political will. He referred to a Note Verbale sent by the French Delegation to all the UNESCO Delegations which announced the withdrawal of their candidature to the Committee "for the sake of the system of rotation". He also referred to a written declaration of the Italian Delegation in which it pledged that if re-elected, it would resign after two years. He declared that this type of commitment and political will provided food for thought and were good examples for other Delegations.