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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

30th Anniversary
(1972-2002)

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-sixth session

Budapest, Hungary
24 - 29 June 2002

Item 7 of the provisional agenda: Report of the Secretary on activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee

The Committee is requested to:

Take note of the report of the Secretary on activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of activities undertaken by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre over the last six months.

A great diversity of work has been required to organize the 26th sessions of the Committee and its Bureau and to implement the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. Our work continues to require a balance between the statutory and the operational. The Centre is in charge of servicing the meetings of the Committee and its Bureau whilst at the same time ensuring operational implementation of the Committee's decisions. As part of the UNESCO Secretariat the Centre also has responsibilities for planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation of the sub-programme on World Heritage.

Follow-up to all Committee decisions and Bureau recommendations relating to the Global Strategy, new World Heritage nominations, preparatory assistance, training activities, emergency assistance, reactive monitoring and periodic reporting is carried out in close co-operation with States Parties and the Advisory Bodies as required. For this work co-ordination with the Division of Ecological Sciences in the Science Sector and the Division of Cultural Heritage in the Culture Sector is essential.

Implementation of some of the Centre's operational activities has been constrained in the recent months due to the introduction of a new financial administration system in UNESCO. The staff of the Centre are being trained in the application of this system.

I am pleased to announce that in response to the growth of the Centre in recent years we have now been provided with additional space in the Saxe building at UNESCO Headquarters. In this regard I wish to particularly thank the World Heritage Committee who worked on the Centre's behalf to request new office space. There are still opportunities to improve our space situation, a, for example, the Centre does not have a formal reception area, a meeting room or exhibition space.

The Centre's information, public-awareness and education work has become increasingly important this year as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and the UN Year for Cultural Heritage. The coincidence of these two celebrations is providing UNESCO with a new visibility and opportunities for raising the awareness of people all around the world of the importance of our world cultural and natural heritage.

I would like to thank all of the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies, other organisations, Centre and UNESCO colleagues and other individuals who have contributed to the implementation of the Convention over recent months.



Francesco Bandarin
Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Friday 21 June 2002

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

- **New States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention***

The total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has increased to **172** since the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee with Liberia, Barbados, the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, and Palau as new States Parties. As these new instruments of ratification and acceptance have only recently been deposited with UNESCO, the Convention will not yet be in force for any at the time of the 26th session of the Committee.

- **The World Heritage List**

Following the inscription of 31 new sites by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fifth session in December 2001, the World Heritage List now includes a total of **721** properties (**554** cultural properties, **144** natural properties and **23** mixed properties) located in **124** States Parties.

- **Tentative lists**

As of 15 May 2002, of the 167 which had ratified the Convention, **122** States Parties had submitted Tentative Lists in accordance with the criteria specified in the Operational Guidelines, **45** States Parties had not submitted any tentative list.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

- **World Heritage statutory meetings**

The **26th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee** was held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 8 - 13 April 2002

- A significant **number of documents** was produced for statutory purposes between January and June 2002: 16 working documents and 7 information documents for the 26th session of the World Heritage Bureau and 30 working documents and 16 information documents for the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee (46 working documents and 23 information documents in total). Eight Circular Letters and 7 mails for WH-STATES@unesco.org (the electronic mailing list for States Parties to the World Heritage Convention) were also issued in this period.

- An **Information Meeting** on the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee was organized on 14 June 2002 for all States Parties.

- Meetings were held with the **Advisory Bodies** (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on 21 January and 13 and 14 February 2002.

- **Revision of the Operational Guidelines**

A second Drafting Group meeting to revise the *Operational Guidelines* was organized at UNESCO Headquarters from 18 to 22 March 2002. The Drafting Group made remarkable progress on the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* and produced a final version of Sections I-V of the Guidelines and ten annexes, through positive and co-operative discussions, seeking consensus wherever possible. The text developed by the March 2002 Drafting Group represents a significant stage in the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* and is presented to the 26th session of the Committee (Budapest, June 2002) for consideration and possible adoption. The Drafting Group identified a number of legal and policy issues (see documents WHC-02/CONF.202/14A and WHC-02/CONF.202/14B). The Group also made general recommendations that require follow-up at the 26th session of the Committee.

III. PERIODIC REPORTING

- **Africa**

The **regional restitution workshop for Africa Periodic reporting**, held from 25 - 27 February 2002, was attended by participants from Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, fifteen out of the eighteen African States Parties that have been participating in the exercise. The purpose of the workshop was to inform the site managers and the national directors on the results and lessons drawn from the first periodic reporting exercise undertaken from 2001 to 2002. The Periodic report will be presented the twenty-sixth session of the Committee for adoption. (see **WHC-02/CONF.202/CONF.16**).

- **Asia and the Pacific**

A **Regional Workshop on Periodic Reporting for Natural and Mixed World Heritage Properties** in Asia and the Pacific was co-organized by UNESCO and the Government of Australia at the World Heritage site of the Greater Blue Mountains Area from 10 to 13 March 2002. Some 80 participants from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam made case study presentations of the national draft periodic reports on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and reported on the state of conservation of the natural and mixed properties in their countries. The meeting adopted recommendations/guidelines and elaborated a timeframe for the preparation of the Regional Synthesis Report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee in June 2003.

- The following sub-regional and national cultural heritage meetings for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and in particular on Periodic Reporting are in preparation: national workshop - China (14-18 July 2002); national workshop - India (September 2002); national workshop -Sri Lanka (September 2002); national meeting - Iran (July or August 2002); Central Asian States Parties in Kazakhstan (September 2002); South Asian States Parties meeting - Pakistan (September 2002).

- **Latin America and the Caribbean**

The first meeting for the **MERCOSUR countries** on the presentation of the Periodic Reports for Latin America was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 13-15 March 2002. Ten States Parties from South America examined 35 sites (24 cultural, 9 natural and 2 mixed). Representatives and site managers from: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela participated in the meeting. Representatives from IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, along with UNESCO representatives and regional experts also participated.

The first meeting for the presentation of the **Periodic Reports for Central America and Mexico** took place in Campeche, Mexico from 8 -10 May 2002. Representatives from: Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Cuba participated in the meeting and examined 26 sites (21 cultural, 4 natural and 1 mixed). A limited number of site managers took part in the meeting in addition to representatives from UNESCO, the three advisory bodies IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM as well as regional experts. Mexico agreed to assist the countries of the sub-region in preparing inventories of their heritage goods.

- **Europe and North America**

A number of meetings were organized with representatives of the Council of Europe to coordinate efforts for Section I of the format, including at the Council of Europe's offices in Paris on 24 April 2002. The Centre participated in the **Council of Europe's meeting in Krakow**, Poland from 23-24 May 2002 and participated in the training sessions on the HEREIN project. A number of States Parties have contacted the Centre concerning focal points and preparation of the Periodic Reporting in 2005/2006. At a meeting with site managers from the 25 World Heritage properties in Germany held at the World Heritage site of **Potsdam** on 7 June 2002, the Periodic Reporting procedures were explained by a member of the Centre. A circular letter to all European States Parties is currently under preparation.

- **Arab States**

As follow-up to the Periodic Reporting exercise which the Arab States went through in 2000, the Arab States WHC Unit started the development of an integrated Action Plan for Arab States, further to the Periodic Reporting process, which will be completed over the next six months and finalized through consultation with experts and States Parties. The Action Plan will be presented to the Committee at its 27th session in June 2003.

IV. REACTIVE MONITORING MISSIONS

- An international ICOMOS - UNESCO mission was undertaken to **Sighisoara and surroundings, Romania** (March 2002) to evaluate a project to develop an amusement park/Draculaland and its effects on the visual integrity and other impacts on the World Heritage site.
- Assistance was given to the Government of **Iran** in finalizing the first nomination in 23 years for a cultural heritage property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, January 2002, As a result, a new nomination will be submitted for examination by the Committee in June 2003.
- Following a reactive monitoring mission to **Galle, Sri Lanka** in May 2002, recommendations were made to enhance conservation and management of the site, and the elaboration of an activity funded under the Netherlands Funds in Trust for a comprehensive management plan was initiated.
- Joint ICOMOS - UNESCO missions were undertaken to **Luang Prabang, Laos** (April 2002) and **Esfahan, Iran** (June 2002), with recommendations to enhance conservation and management of the sites as a result.
- A mission to **Pahapur, Bangladesh**, in April 2002, resulted in recommendations to enhance conservation and management of the site, and the preparation of a follow-up UNESCO mission to elaborate a Japan FIT activity.
- A Study Tour for site-managers of the **Hampi** World Heritage site in Danger (India) to the United Kingdom is in preparation for October 2002. Among the expected results are an increased capacity of national authorities in enhanced conservation and management of this property and eventual removal of threats facing the site.
- **Reactivating the World Heritage Convention in Afghanistan**
In order to assist the authorities of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan in reactivating the World Heritage Convention, since January 2002, the World Heritage Centre has assisted the Afghan authorities in (a) elaborating a national action plan for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention; (b) collating scientific documentation to elaborate a national inventory on natural and cultural heritage properties of Afghanistan in close co-operation with the relevant Advisory Bodies; (c)

assessing the state of conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Afghanistan through a technical fact-finding and consultative mission to Kabul between 30 April and 5 May 2002, and Herat (via Islamabad) between 7 and 8 May 2002; (d) reactivating the deferred nomination process of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam initiated by the former Afghan authorities in 1981; (e) mobilizing international support to address priority needs for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan's cultural heritage through the co-organization of an 'International Seminar for the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage' held in Kabul between 27-29 May 2002; (f) planning a training activity to increase the capacity of the Afghan authorities in implementing the World Heritage Convention. (see **WHC-02/CONF.202/CONF.19**).

V. GLOBAL STRATEGY

- **Arab States**
The Arab States Unit is implementing a Regional Study on the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists, with the objective of determining the less represented categories of sites and providing indications to States Parties for future nominations. The study should be completed by end 2002.
- **Africa**
In collaboration with the Regional Department for Cultural Affairs Inventory services of the Ministry of Culture and Francophonie, in Nancy, France, a one week training was organized for an African expert on the methodologies and general inventory of monuments and cultural riches. Organization of such training exchanges are envisaged in the future.
- **Asia and Pacific**
- A World Heritage marine workshop was organized in Hanoi, Viet Nam from 25 February to 1 March 2002 as a part of the UNESCO/IUCN/UNFIP project '**Filling critical gaps and promoting multi-sites approaches to new nominations of tropical coastal, marine and small island ecosystems**'. Financed by the UN Foundation, and organized with the assistance of partners such as the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US Government, this was a first-ever global expert dialogue on tropical coastal, marine and small island ecosystems.
- An expert mission to Indonesia for the preparation of the nomination dossier for the **Cultural Landscape site of Bali** was organized from 8 to 21 April 2002. Assistance will be given to prepare the nomination dossier for cultural heritage and landscape properties of Bali and to formulate a comprehensive management plan for sustainable protection and development of the site.
- All work to foster implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the **Pacific Region** continues through close co-operation between the Centre and the UNESCO office in Apia, Samoa.
- Following the recent accession of the Marshall Islands and Palau and the ratification of Vanuatu, particular attention is now being given to encouraging the following Pacific Island countries to join the Convention: **Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia** (Congress passed a resolution on January 31, 2002 - awaiting original copy), **Nauru, Tonga, Tokelau and Tuvalu**.
- Arrangements are being made for the publication of the **proceedings of the workshop on Cultural Interpretation of Heritage Sites in the Pacific** organized with the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA) in Palau in 2001.

- A special session on World Heritage is being held as part of the **7th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas** (Raratonga, Cook Islands, 8-12 July 2002) in co-operation with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
- Preparation of the following nominations continues: **Kuk Early Agriculture site, Papua New Guinea** with the support of Japan Funds in Trust; **Varirata National Park, Papua New Guinea** with the support of the New Zealand Government; and **Levuka, Fiji** with the support of Japan Funds in Trust .
- Another Japan Funds in Trust project to assess the potential for **Rennell Island, Solomon Islands** to be nominated as a World Heritage cultural landscape is not progressing due to the recent civil unrest.
- **Vanuatu** has submitted a request for Preparatory Assistance to further develop their national heritage inventory in preparation for submission of a tentative list.
- Consultations have begun with **Niue** for a tentative list workshop to be held jointly with Kiribati.
- A project to review the **Karst systems in the Pacific islands** is under development.
- A study tour by traditional leaders of the **Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)** to Tongariro National Park is being planned, as well as a project to assist with vegetation control at Nan Madol in FSM.
- A **workshop for professional and institutional capacity building for UNESCO's Pacific Island Member States to promote the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*** will be held in Apia, Samoa from 21 October - 1 November 2002 with the financial support of Italian Funds in Trust.

VI. MEETINGS ON THE PRESERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- An **International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Islamic Cairo** was organized by the Centre in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Culture in Cairo, Egypt, 16-20 February 2002. This Symposium provided a forum for discussion and exchange among renowned international and Egyptian experts on the current restoration campaign within Islamic Cairo. Conclusions and specific recommendations were issued at the end of the Symposium, marking a significant progress in the identification of possible measures to improve conservation practice within the WH site. These recommendations will be shortly made available on the web-site of the Centre.
- The Centre participated in a conference on the **Rehabilitation of the Medina of Fez** which took place in Fez, Morocco, from 31 May to 2 June 2002, with the aim to assess the current state of implementation of this joint UNESCO/World Bank/Morocco project and to call for additional funding.

VII. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- Centre staff participated in the first **World Summit on Ecotourism**, held in Quebec City, from 19 to 22 May 2002. The Centre's work on specific projects on tourism in and around World Heritage sites were presented and well received. The Committee's encouragement for the development of a World Heritage Tourism Programme also received a favourable response and useful suggestions and ideas during parallel events organized at the time of the Summit.

- The Centre and IUCN continue their co-operation to organize preparatory activities to generate outputs and products focussing on World Heritage at the **Fifth World Congress on Protected Areas**, 8 to 17 September 2003 in Durban, South Africa. The special allocations earmarked by the World Heritage Committee at Helsinki, Finland out of the 2002 World Heritage Fund budget are being used to organize specific workshops linked to each of the seven workshop streams of the Durban Congress.
- The Centre was present at numerous conferences organized in Europe on the management of World Heritage sites, including the **International Conference on the Overall Development and Integration of Tourism within Historic Cities** (19 to 22 February 2002, Grenada, Spain).
- As follow up to the activities on the Alpine Arc in 2000/2001, an international conference on the Alpine Convention – the **'Future of the Alps'** was organized by an environmental organization in Innsbruck, Austria (18 - 20 April 2002) with a strong World Heritage component.
- A European **IUCN/WCPA meeting** took place in Pörschach, Austria from 12-15 June 2002 with a special session on World Heritage.
- Geological heritage activities included the participation of the Centre in the conference **'World Heritage status – what next'**, a conference for the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage site on 23 May 2002 (United Kingdom). This was also a preparatory event for a collaboration with the Council of Europe on geological heritage, for which a meeting is foreseen in September 2002 in Strasbourg, France.
- Following the adoption of the **European Landscape Convention** (Council of Europe, 2000) and the first conference of signatory states to this Convention in 2001 (Council of Europe, Strasbourg), a workshop on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention took place in Strasbourg, 23-24 May 2002, with the participation of the World Heritage Centre.
- The Centre participated in the international scientific conference **'Preservation, Development and Monitoring of Historic Cities in the 21st Century'** organized by Hellenic ICOMOS, the Technical Chamber of Greece and the ICOMOS Committee for Historic Cities (Corfu, Greece, 18 - 20 April 2002). Issues such as housing rehabilitation as a tool for urban preservation and the need to effectively promote tourism to sustainably conserve and develop tourism were discussed.
- An International Conference, **Alternatives to historical reconstruction in UNESCO World Heritage Cities** was held in Tallinn, Estonia, 16 - 17 May 2002.
- An **International meeting on Mountain Cities : World Heritage Cities and Natural Disasters**, was held from 20 - 22 June 2002 in Chambéry, France.
- An International Symposium on **'Cultural Diversity in historic cities - key to a sustainable future'**, was held from 20-24 June 2002 in Kazan, Russia (OVPM)
- The Centre participated in the international conference on the **'Enhancement of Cultural Heritage Strategy'**, 7 - 11 February 2002, organized in Tunis, Tunisia, by the Institut National du Patrimoine, to discuss the plan developed by the Tunisian authorities with the support of the World Bank, for the conservation of World Heritage sites in Tunisia.
- A representative of the Centre was invited to speak at a Panel Discussion on **'Cultural Heritage and Sacred Sites: World Heritage from an Indigenous perspective'** at New York University on 15 May 2002 at the invitation of the NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and attended the opening of the First United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at UN Headquarters in New York (13 - 24 May 2002).

VIII. TRAINING SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

- A **Training Seminar on the Preservation, Conservation and Management of Zhoukoudian and Sangiran Prehistoric World Heritage sites** was held from 15 to 20 April 2002 in Solo, Indonesia. A co-operation was initiated between the Chinese and Indonesian authorities on these two sites, with the collaboration of international experts from Australia, China, Japan and France. The participants discussed ways of strengthening a network for the protection of prehistoric World Heritage sites, and a proposal for the twinning of the two above-mentioned sites was adopted at the meeting. Concrete actions such as a Joint Coordinating Board (JCB), joint research projects and information exchange programmes were immediately initiated. In view of the renewal of the bilateral Cultural Agreement between the governments of Indonesia and China, it was suggested that the twinning arrangement could be integrated into the Agreement.
- The **Second Regional Capacity-Building and Institutional-Development Workshop** was held in Kampala, Uganda from 11 - 22 February 2002 for six eastern African countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Djibouti. The objectives of the workshops are to increase capacity building at the sub-regional and national levels, to provide tools to selected experts to better understand the conservation process of the 1972 Convention and implement it effectively through a national action plan, which includes the preparation of the tentative lists, nominations and requests for international assistance for sites.
- A **Regional Training Workshop on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention** was held in Amman, Jordan, 5-9 May 2002. Representatives from 16 countries (out of 17 States Parties to the Convention) attended this regional Workshop, aimed at strengthening the capacity of national agencies in charge of WH sites in implementing the Convention through better understanding of its objectives and procedures. The first network of Arab World Heritage focal points, which will constitute the basis for future regional activities, was established at this workshop.

IX. PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDS IN TRUST

- The Norwegian Government has formally established the **Nordic World Heritage Foundation** and will be pursuing its official status with UNESCO as an international and regional institution under UNESCO auspices.
- The mayors of Wismar and Stralsund have established a **Foundation for World Heritage** and are offering their co-operation and support to countries in Central and Eastern Europe with identification of potential World Heritage sites and projects.
- The **Belgium-financed project** on community support activities for the conservation of World Heritage in the DR of the Congo is now underway despite initial delays caused by the volcanic eruption in Goma in January 2002. It is complementing the work of the UNF financed project in DRC which focuses on strengthening support to guards protecting the World Heritage sites.
- A **Memorandum of Agreement on the co-operation between Spain and the World Heritage Centre** was signed on 18 April 2002 between the UNESCO Director General and His Excellency F. Villar y Ortíz de Urbina, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Spain to UNESCO. This MOU will enable Spain to share the experience it has acquired in the conservation of heritage with numerous developing countries.

- The Director-General of UNESCO and the Minister for the Environment and Heritage of the Commonwealth of Australia signed in Melbourne, on 7 May 2002 a **Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and UNESCO**. The memorandum of understanding, which will remain in force for at least five years, aims to enhance the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention in the Asia-Pacific region and its effectiveness in the safeguarding and sustainable use of cultural and natural heritage.

X. THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

- Two new staff have joined the Centre since the beginning of 2002, an Executive Officer (P5) working for the Directorate, and an Associate Expert (P1/P2), financed by the Netherlands and working for the Europe Unit.
- As part of another **UNF-UNESCO Partnership project**, the Centre is in the process of recruiting a Natural Heritage specialist (P-3) and an Administrative Assistant (P1/P2), each of them for a two-year period. The Government of Belgium has seconded a Natural Heritage expert (P-4) who started work in April 2002 for two years.

XI. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

- The conservation activities in States Parties are now starting to be enhanced through proper management of data and information. In a workshop for the Arab region in Amman, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates indicated a strong support to sponsor the creation of a **regional information centre**.
- The World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with other sectors of UNESCO has now an agreement with all **International Space Agencies**. This UNESCO 'Open Initiative' provides, mainly to developing States Parties, access to satellite images and associated experts to better monitor their own World Heritage sites. Through this partnership it is now possible, from the far space, to monitor our World Heritage.

XII. AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Publications and public information activities

- **WHNEWS** : five editions of the electronic newsletter were prepared and diffused;
- ***World Heritage Newsletter***: two issues (33 and 34) were printed and distributed to some 19,000 addresses;
- ***World Heritage Review***: three issues (24, 25 and 26) were prepared and diffused through subscription and other commercial channels. A co-publishing agreement has been signed between Magisterpress, Moscow and UNESCO Publishing for the production and distribution of a Russian version of the *Review*;
- The ***World Heritage Diary 2003*** is in preparation for print;
- A collaboration established with the **National Geographic Magazine** will result in a 10-page article on World Heritage in the October issue of this world-wide diffused popular magazine.
- Following the presentation of the **public service announcement project** at the 25th session of the Committee, and the Circular Letter sent to States Parties about the project, the Centre received 33 responses. A majority of countries have expressed support for this initiative and have offered to provide video material to help produce

the short television announcements. More responses from States Parties are expected before the elaboration of a production schedule. However, it is foreseen that these films will be in production in early 2003.

- A special **30th Anniversary Exhibition** was prepared in 6 languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese) to be provided free of cost to all States Parties to the Convention before the end of 2003. This light-weight traveling exhibition, financed through extra-budgetary sources generated by other promotional projects, will be on display (in French) during the 26th session of the Committee in Budapest.

UNYCH / 30th anniversary

- As a part of the activities undertaken to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, a number of events have taken place and others are still in the planning stage. They are being organized in the context of the **United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage** celebrated around the world throughout 2002.
- Information about the programme and organizational status of the **International Congress 'World Heritage 2002'** was provided during a briefing session for representatives of the Bureau at the World Heritage Centre on 15 January 2002. In addition, meetings of the Steering Committee for the event were held at UNESCO Headquarters on 18 January and 19 April. Members of the Bureau and some members of the Committee were present at those meetings. Notes of both of these meetings were circulated to members of the World Heritage Committee for information.

Education

The World Heritage Education concept is currently being used and adapted in more than 130 countries with many educational and hands-on activities at regional and national level.

- The **First Skills-Development Training Course** for young people in the Arab Region was organized at Petra, Jordan, from 20 to 25 April 2002 in collaboration with the UNESCO Amman Office and ICCROM.
- An International Conference **'World Heritage in young hands – a Dialogue among Civilizations'** was organized in Aswan/Cairo, Egypt, from 6 to 12 February 2002 in collaboration with the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO. Twenty countries participated in this event whose aim was to further develop educational materials on World Heritage.
- An overall **external evaluation** of the Project was finalized by the external evaluators from English Heritage in January 2002, which will provide guidance in the enhancement of the project.
- The Centre has been involved in assisting several States Parties in organizing meetings and seminars concerning World Heritage education. A sub-regional seminar on integration of World Heritage education into the National Educational System of **Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine** has been organized by the UNESCO Moscow Office in collaboration with the National Commission of the Republic of Belarus (17 to 20 June 2002).
- A Youth Forum is planned to be held at the World Heritage site of **Novgorod, Russian Federation**, in August 2002.
- The **First Central European Meeting** on this subject will be held in Bratislava for 82 students and teachers (24 to 29 June 2002). This initiative, organized by the Slovak

National Commission for UNESCO, is a joint event of six countries: Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria, Poland and Slovenia.

- The Secretariat has received and is still receiving many requests from countries to **translate the World Heritage Education Kit into national languages**. Some of the requests apply for promotional assistance grants under the World Heritage Fund 2002.
- A **second edition** of the Education Kit 'World Heritage in Young Hands' has been produced in English, while the French version is being prepared for September.
- The preparation of the publication of a **Pacific version** of the Education Kit 'World Heritage in young hands' has started in collaboration with the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO with extra-budgetary support from the government of The Netherlands. This initiative is part of the Pacific Action Plan for World Heritage education, approved by the Committee at its 24th session in Cairns, December 2000.