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WHC-04/28.COM/17A
Paris, 21 May 2004
Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session
Suzhou, China
28 June – 7 July 2004

**Item 17A of the Provisional Agenda: Progress report on the preparation of the
Periodic Report for Europe and North America**

SUMMARY

This document provides the Committee with a progress report on the preparation of the Periodic Report for Europe and North America to be presented to the Committee at its 29th and 30th session in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Draft Decisions: 28 COM 17A.1: see paragraph 6
28 COM 17A.2: see paragraph 11

Background information, calendar and electronic tool

1. In 2003 the World Heritage Centre developed an Electronic Tool for Periodic Reporting, which is the electronic version of the Questionnaire/Format. The States Parties are strongly encouraged to use this tool, as it will facilitate the comparative analysis of the European national reports. Information will also be collected in a digital database that will be accessible for the States Parties after the Periodic Reporting exercise. On the basis of the consent by the States Parties, the information will be shared with the Council of Europe's HEREIN programme.

2. On 11 March 2004 the World Heritage Centre organised the 4th Information Meeting for States Parties from Europe and North America on Periodic Reporting. The new Electronic Tool for Periodic Reporting was presented to the meeting, as well as background information on the exercise, working methods of the Working Group for Periodic Reporting, and cooperation with the Council of Europe's HEREIN programme. Furthermore, the meeting discussed the relationship between the Periodic Reporting Format adopted by the Committee and the Questionnaire, the way the Questionnaire had been prepared and the use of indicators.

3. Information on the Periodic Reporting exercise, the timetable, Circular Letters and the Electronic Tool is available on the web-pages of the Centre at:

<http://whc.unesco.org/reporting/europe/>

Progress Report on the preparation of the Periodic Report for North America

4. The United States and Canada continued to work together in developing the North American Periodic Report. The US National Park Service and Parks Canada collaborated in bringing together all North American World Heritage site managers for the first time ever in meetings in Los Angeles (USA, January 2003) and Quebec (Canada, January 2004). Each country took turns in hosting a meeting of the managers to discuss the purposes of the report, the overall approach to be taken in developing it, and progress in completing it. As a result of the meetings and the work on the Periodic Report, the network of North American World Heritage sites and the partnership between the US and Canada has been substantially strengthened.

5. Barring any unforeseen delays, drafts of Section I report for each country and Section II reports for all North American World Heritage sites are scheduled to be completed for national stakeholder review in the summer of 2004. Additionally, the combined Regional Report for North America will also be available for review during the same period. Each country is engaging respective stakeholders at the national, regional, and local levels and will incorporate the input received, as appropriate. Following the stakeholder review, the report, with all its component parts, will be approved by the

respective authorities in both Canada and the US for submittal to the Committee on schedule by the end of December 2004.

6. One clear and already evident outcome of the North American reporting process is the advisability of suspending for one year or more the commencement of the next cycle of periodic reporting to allow a period of reflection and study of the just-concluded first cycle of reporting. It was suggested that during the pause, the Committee should develop strategic direction on the forms and the format of the report, training priorities based on periodic reports from all regions, international cooperation priorities based on all periodic reports, as well as streamlining Committee considerations of matters pertaining to inscribed sites brought to light through periodic reporting (e.g. name changes, statements of significance, boundary adjustments).

Draft Decision: 28 COM 17A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling its decision to examine the North American Periodic Report at its 29th session in 2005,*
2. *Notes the report on the progress of the North American Periodic Report;*
3. *Further notes the proposal to review the results of the first Periodic Reporting Cycle in 2007 and decides to include this item on the agenda of its 29th session in 2005.*

Progress Report on the preparation of the Periodic Report for the European Region

7. The Nordic and Baltic countries are organizing a second Periodic Reporting co-ordination meeting as a follow-up to the meeting held in Riga, Latvia, in September 2003. The Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) has agreed to arrange this meeting to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 14 June 2004.

8. The second Periodic Reporting meeting of site-managers of the German-speaking countries took place in Potsdam, Germany, from 22 to 23 April 2004. All German site managers as well as representatives from Austria, Switzerland and an observer from The Netherlands attended the workshop coordinated by the focal point from Germany, and hosted by the Federal Land of Brandenburg. The meeting discussed in detail the questionnaire for section II with managers of the World Heritage properties concerned.

9. A sub-regional meeting on Periodic Reporting for South Eastern European States Parties took place in Trieste, Italy, from 3 to 7 March 2004, which reviewed both Section I and II, and presented the electronic tool on Periodic Reporting. Eleven countries from South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Malta, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Turkey), and the two Italian Focal Points attended the workshop. Representatives from the Italian Ministry of Culture, the Chair and Rapporteur of the Working Group on Periodic Reporting and representatives from the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM also participated.

10. Concerning Central and Eastern Europe, a first sub-regional workshop on Periodic Reporting for the Russian Federation and the countries of the Community of Independent States (CIS) was organized (Moscow, Russian Federation, 23 - 27 September 2003). A follow up meeting for the region is scheduled from 24 to 28 May 2004 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The Central European countries will discuss the preparation of their Periodic Reports during a sub-regional workshop from 6 to 9 May 2004 in Visegrád, Hungary.

11. A number of national meetings were also organized by the authorities concerned to advance the preparations of the Periodic Reports from the 48 countries in the European region.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 17A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling its decision to examine Section I of the European Periodic Report at its 29th session in 2005, and Section II at its 30th session in 2006,*
2. *Notes the report on the progress of the European Periodic Report.*