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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Seventh extraordinary session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
6-11 December 2004

**Item 5A 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: 7 EXT.COM 5A.1 : see point III
7 EXT.COM 5A.2 : see point V

This document was prepared for the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee, but was not presented, due to time constraints. It is hereby presented in an updated format (changes are highlighted).

I. 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/pg.cfm?cid=172>

II. 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 **were completed** for national stakeholder review in the summer of 2004. Additionally, the combined Regional Report for North America **has also been made** 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).

III. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 7 EXT.COM 5A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling its decision to examine the Periodic Report for North America at its 29th session in 2005,*
2. *Notes the report on the progress of the Periodic Report for North America;*
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.*

IV. Progress Report on the preparation of the Periodic Report for Europe

7. The Nordic and Baltic countries **have held** two Periodic Reporting co-ordination meetings: **the first meeting** in Riga, Latvia (September 2003) **and the second meeting hosted by the Swedish, Cultural Heritage Board in Stockholm, Sweden, on 14 June 2004 and organized also by the Nordic**

World Heritage Foundation (NWHF). All national focal points from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were represented and provided an update on the completion of Section I. Their work has advanced considerably and all reports for Section I should be finalized by September / October 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. A working agenda for the finalization of the reporting exercise was defined.
9. From 14 to 15 May 2004, the first meeting of all site managers from the Iberian Peninsula took place in Lisbon, Portugal. In addition to focusing on management of World Heritage sites, the meeting served to inform Portuguese and Spanish site managers about Section II of the Periodic Reporting exercise and to define their involvement in the process.
10. 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.
11. 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), followed by the second workshop from 24 to 28 May 2004 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The Central European countries discussed the preparation of their Periodic Reports during a sub-regional workshop from 6 to 9 May 2004 in Visegrád, Hungary, and the second workshop scheduled in Slovakia in April 2005 will focus on the preparation of Section II.

12. 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.

V. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 7 **EXT.COM 5A.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

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