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

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

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV  
10-11 October 2005**

**Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda: Opening of the session by the Director General  
or his representative**

**Summary Record of the 14th General Assembly of States Parties to the *World  
Heritage Convention* (UNESCO, 14-15 October 2003)**

**Distribution limited**

**WHC-03/14.GA/10  
Paris, 2 February 2004  
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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII  
14-15 October 2003**

**SUMMARY RECORD**

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1. The 14th General Assembly of States Parties to the *Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage* (hereafter the *World Heritage Convention* or the *Convention*) was held in Paris, at UNESCO Headquarters on 14 and 15 October 2003 during the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference.

2. Representatives of 163 States Parties to the *Convention* attended the General Assembly.

3. The representatives of the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM) also attended.

4. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre provided the Secretariat for the General Assembly.

## **1. OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

*Document: WHC-03/14.GA/INF.1*

5. At the opening of the 14th General Assembly, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura the Director-General of UNESCO welcomed the representatives of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* and acknowledged that the *Convention* is the most successful of UNESCO's conventions and, indeed, a flagship programme of UNESCO. Since the last General Assembly membership has increased with the adherence of eleven new States Parties (Barbados, Bhutan, Eritrea, Kuwait, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Palau, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Vanuatu).

6. The Director-General referred to the new Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee - strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List, improving the conservation of sites, building capacity and raising awareness. The 30th anniversary of the *Convention* provided an opportunity to make an assessment of its strengths and weaknesses. The Venice Congress held at the time of the anniversary in November 2002, explored future challenges for World Heritage conservation. Furthermore, World Heritage was a cross-cutting theme at the 5th World Parks Congress held in Durban South-Africa in September 2003.

7. The Director-General referred to important conceptual developments in the application of the *World Heritage Convention* such as the recognition of outstanding cultural landscapes. He also referred to new initiatives such as the *Convention on the Underwater Cultural Heritage* adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2001 and encouraged Member States to ratify it at the earliest opportunity. In addition, he expressed his tremendous satisfaction that the Culture Commission of the 32nd General Conference had approved the text of the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage* for submission to the plenary for adoption.

8. The Director-General referred to the fact that at the time of the 13th General Assembly in 2001, there existed 630 World Heritage properties in 118 States Parties, while today those numbers have increased to 754 World Heritage properties in 129

States Parties. Despite this success he referred to the 47 States Parties that still do not have sites on the World Heritage List and indicated that this continuing imbalance should be addressed.

9. In this regard, he continued by explaining three significant issues for conservation. The first being the assessment by ICOMOS and IUCN of existing gaps in the World Heritage List. Secondly, that the lack of representativity of the List can be considered as a resource issue, which should be addressed through the identification of States Parties' needs. Thirdly, that a new approach should be taken involving the determination of the recurrent cost of conservation of existing World Heritage properties for which additional resources are to be sought through a partnership approach.

10. The Director-General concluded by thanking the World Heritage Committee and the three recent Chairpersons, Mr Henrik Lilius (Finland), Mr Tamás Fejérdy (Hungary) and Ms Vera Lacoëuilhe (Saint Lucia), as well as the new Chairperson, Mr Zhang Xinsheng (China). He expressed the need for better geographical representation and rotation in the Committee, which could be achieved if Committee members voluntarily reduced their term of office from six to four years. He paid tribute to Belgium for having taken this generous approach that would provide increased opportunities for others.

11. A copy of the speech of the Director-General is attached as Annex I.

12. The Assistant Director-General for Culture, Mr Mounir Bouchenaki thanked the Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee and the Director of the World Heritage Centre and his staff for their work. He made reference to the General Assembly as an historic occasion at which seven former World Heritage Committee Chairpersons (Mr Azedine Beschaouch, Tunisia; Dr Adul Wichiencharoen, Thailand; Dr Christina Cameron, Canada; Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Japan; Mr Henrik Lilius, Finland; Mr Tamás Fejérdy, Hungary; Ms Vera Lacoëuilhe, Saint Lucia) and the current Chairperson (Mr Zhang Xinsheng, China) were attending meetings at UNESCO. Finally he also welcomed representatives of the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee - ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites), IUCN (the World Conservation Union) and ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property).

## **2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Documents: WHC-03/14.GA/2  
WHC-03/14.GA/INF.2*

13. Mr Francesco Bandarin, the Director of the World Heritage Centre, explained the procedures for the election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the General Assembly and introduced the relevant documents. He informed the General Assembly that H.E. Mr Ahmad Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran) had been designated as a candidate for Chairperson of the 14th General Assembly by the

ASPAC Members States in a letter of 1 October 2003 from H.E. Mr Teiichi Sato (Japan).

14. H.E. Mr Ahmad Jalali was elected as Chairperson of the 14th General Assembly by acclamation.

15. The Chairperson of the General Assembly addressed a short speech to the States Parties. He referred to the *World Heritage Convention* as a thoroughly modern concept and as a practical legal framework that brings together culture and science, education and communication. He referred to World Heritage as a concept that brings people together in what he referred to as a "civilisational consciousness" where people have the opportunity to admire, cherish and recognize the world's heritage across national boundaries. In concluding his remarks, he referred to the enduring spirit of the *Convention*, noting its increasing visibility and relevance that would perhaps not be easily achievable today. Finally, he mentioned the strength of the Secretariat team that would assist the General Assembly and thanked them all for their work.

16. A copy of the speech of H.E. Mr Ahmad Jalali is attached as Annex II.

17. The Chairperson then informed the General Assembly that the Delegations of Barbados, France, Nigeria, and Uganda had submitted their candidatures as Vice-Chairpersons. He suggested that as there were no nominations for Rapporteur that Ms Alissandra Cummins of Barbados be invited to serve as Rapporteur of the 14th General Assembly and that the other three States Parties serve as Vice-Chairpersons. There being no objection, all were elected by acclamation and Resolution **14 GA 2** adopted.

## **RESOLUTION 14 GA 2**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Elected H.E. Mr Ahmad Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Chairperson of the 14th General Assembly,*
2. *Elected Ms Alissandra Cummins (Barbados) as Rapporteur of the 14th General Assembly,*
3. *Elected France, Nigeria, and Uganda as Vice-Chairpersons of the 14th General Assembly.*

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Documents: WHC-03/14.GA/3  
WHC-03/14.GA/3A  
WHC-03/14.GA/INF.3 Rev*

18. The Secretariat informed the General Assembly that it had received two proposed amendments to the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly and a

related request that a new item "Revision of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly" be included on the Agenda of the 14th General Assembly.

19. The General Assembly adopted the Provisional Agenda presented in document *WHC-03/14.GA/3 Prov.* with the addition of a new item 3A on the Revision of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly.

### **3A. REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Document:* WHC-03/14.GA/3A

20. The Secretariat informed the General Assembly that it had recently received two proposals from States Parties to amend the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly.

21. The Secretariat explained that a written proposal transmitted by the Delegation of Algeria on 8 October 2003, signed by 15 States Parties, requested that permanent observer missions to UNESCO be included amongst the observers allowed to participate in the General Assembly. The Secretariat referred to the proposed revision to Rule 2.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* to include reference to: "The representatives of member States and observers to UNESCO...".

22. The Legal Adviser noted that a similar recent revision to Rule 8.3 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the World Heritage Committee used the term "permanent observer missions to UNESCO" rather than "observers to UNESCO".

23. The General Assembly agreed to amend the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly accordingly.

#### **RESOLUTION 14 GA 3.1**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Decides* to amend Rule 2.1 of its *Rules of Procedure* to read:

*2.1 The representatives of Member States of UNESCO not parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural heritage and permanent observer missions to UNESCO may participate in the work of the Assembly as observers, without the right to vote, and subject to Rule 7.3.*

24. The Secretariat then informed the General Assembly of the written proposal transmitted by the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO on 8 October 2003, requesting that Chinese be included as a working language of the General Assembly. This would necessitate a change to Rule 10.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly.

25. The proposed amendment to the *Rules of Procedure* was strongly supported.

## RESOLUTION 14 GA 3.2

*The General Assembly,*

1. Decides to amend Rule 10.1 of its Rules of Procedure to read:

*10.1 The working languages of the Assembly shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.*

## 4. NEW VOTING MECHANISM AND REVISION OF PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

*Document: WHC-03/14.GA/4*

26. The Secretariat explained that following careful research it had proposed to the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee (Paris, June/July 2003), a number of revisions to the *Rules of Procedure* relating to the election of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee had decided not to propose any changes to the election procedures to the 14th General Assembly.

27. The 14th General Assembly decided not to amend Rule 13 of its *Rules of Procedure* on the election of members of the World Heritage Committee.

## RESOLUTION 14 GA 4.1

*The General Assembly,*

1. Taking into consideration the decision of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee on the new voting mechanism and revision of the procedures for election of the members of the World Heritage Committee (decision 27 COM 18A.4),
2. Decides not to amend Rule 13 of its Rules of Procedure on the election of members of the World Heritage Committee.

28. The Secretariat informed the General Assembly of measures it had taken to increase transparency in the process and procedures for the presentation of candidatures to the World Heritage Committee.

29. The Delegation of Israel suggested a deadline of 1 week before the opening of the General Assembly as a suitable deadline for the closure of the list of candidatures. The Delegation also requested clarification as to the meaning of the words "evolution of the candidatures" as presented in the proposed amendment to Rule 13.2 in the *Rules of Procedure* in Draft Resolution 14 GA 4.2 in document WHC-03/14.GA/4.

30. The Delegations of Finland and Hungary supported the Draft Resolution 14 GA 4.2 without amendment.

31. The Delegation of the United Kingdom supported the Delegation of Israel and further suggested to delete the last 12 words of the proposed amendment to Rule 13.2 in the *Rules of Procedure* in Draft Resolution **14 GA 4.2** - "based on the evolution of the candidatures and of the payments received".

32. The Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic supported the proposal made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom to delete the words "based on the evolution of the candidatures and of the payments received". It favored the deadline of 48 hours for presentation of candidatures for the World Heritage Committee. It indicated the need to provide as much time as possible for States Parties to pay their contribution to the World Heritage Fund before standing for the election. The Delegation also highlighted the need for consistency in setting deadlines, notably to give consideration to procedures of other intergovernmental committees and organizations.

33. The Delegation of Japan supported the original Draft Resolution **14 GA 4.2** as presented in document *WHC-03/14.GA/4*.

34. The Delegation of the Czech Republic supported the Draft Resolution as amended by Israel and the United Kingdom.

35. The Delegation of Canada agreed with the proposed deletion of wording suggested by the Delegation of the United Kingdom and supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Israel for the deadline for candidatures for the World Heritage Committee to be one week prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

36. The Delegation of the Netherlands supported the Draft Resolution as amended by the Delegations of Israel and the United Kingdom.

37. The Delegation of Lebanon supported the Draft Resolution as amended by the United Kingdom but endorsed the original Draft Resolution concerning the 48 hours deadline for submission of Committee candidatures, as many countries can only manage to pay their contribution to the World Heritage Fund at the last minute.

38. The Delegation of Benin supported the Draft Resolution in principal, but pointed out that it was necessary to clarify whether the deadline is 48 hours before the opening of the election or the opening of the General Assembly. Furthermore, the same clarification is required in the proposed revision to Rule 13.3 of the *Rules of Procedure*.

39. The Delegation of Slovenia supported the original Draft Resolution and the reference to a deadline of 48 hours prior to the opening of the General Assembly and underlined that this was in line with the procedures of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

40. The Delegation of Turkey supported the proposal made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom to delete the final words in the proposed amendment to Rule 13.2 in the *Rules of Procedure*. The Delegation endorsed the original Draft Resolution and

the proposed 48 hour deadline for the receipt of Committee candidatures as there should also be enough time for the States Parties to withdraw their candidatures.

41. The Delegation of the Dominican Republic supported the proposal made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom to delete the final words in the proposed amendment to Rule 13.2 in the *Rules of Procedure*. It also supported the comments made by the Delegation of Benin.

42. The Delegation of Saint Lucia strongly suggested to adopt the original Draft Resolution as amended by the Delegations of the United Kingdom and Benin. This proposal was supported by the Delegations of Argentina, Hungary, Finland, Germany, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya.

43. The Chairperson summarized the different comments made on the Draft Resolution and indicated that the Secretariat had proposed to close the list of candidatures for the Committee 48 hours before the opening of the General Assembly.

44. The Secretariat read the proposed amendments to the Draft Resolution and it was adopted by the General Assembly.

## **RESOLUTION 14 GA 4.2**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Noting the decision of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee on procedures for the presentation of candidatures to the World Heritage Committee (decision 27 COM 18A.2),*
2. *Decides to include the following text as new Rule 13 - Procedures for the presentation of candidatures to the World Heritage Committee<sup>1</sup>:*

*13.1 The Secretariat shall ask all States Parties, at least three months prior to the opening of the General Assembly, whether they intend to stand for election to the World Heritage Committee. If so, its candidature should be sent to the Secretariat at least six weeks prior to the opening of the General Assembly.*

*13.2 At least four weeks prior to the opening of the General Assembly the Secretariat shall send to all States Parties the provisional list of States Parties candidates. The Secretariat will also provide information on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund made by each of the candidates. This list of candidatures will be revised as necessary.*

*13.3 This list of candidatures shall be finalised 48 hours before the opening of the General Assembly. No other candidatures nor payments*

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<sup>1</sup> The numbering of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly will thus be amended accordingly.

*of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted in the 48-hour period prior to the opening of the General Assembly.*

**5. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

*Document: WHC-03/14.GA/5 (32C/REP/14)*

45. Mr Zhang Xinsheng, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, presented a report on the activities of the World Heritage Committee since October 2001. Having thanked the past three Chairpersons and the Rapporteurs of the World Heritage Committee, and welcomed the 11 new States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*, Mr Zhang continued his presentation by focusing on the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee: credibility, conservation, capacity-building and communication. Before concluding, he indicated that a World Heritage Information Meeting would be held at UNESCO Headquarters in the first quarter of 2004. He proposed that at the Information Meeting there would be an overview of the Suzhou Committee agenda and a preview of some of the social and other side events. The Information Meeting would aim to focus on the key issues to be addressed at Suzhou and start to give States Parties, and the Committee in particular, an idea of ways of progressing discussions toward useful outcomes. In conclusion, he emphasized that as the Chairperson of the Committee, he would like to give greater encouragement to States Parties to identify and protect World Heritage sites, and to recognize and enhance cultural diversity around the world. This would help to ensure that the world's cultures, traditions and environments are cherished and protected. Finally he called on all States Parties to join him in this important common cause.

46. A copy of the speech of Mr Zhang Xinsheng is attached as Annex III.

47. In responding to the presentation by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, the Delegation of Argentina congratulated him for the clear and comprehensive presentation and made six points. It informed the General Assembly that Argentina is working with satellite technology in safeguarding heritage sites. In this regard, it referred to an action plan drawn up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including the organization of a regional seminar in 2004. Secondly, it commended Belgium for reducing the length of its membership of the World Heritage Committee from six to four years on a voluntary basis. It expressed its interest in bilateral agreements and requested the World Heritage Centre to make information available on existing agreements via a document or publication. The Delegation continued by indicating the need to re-think the way the Committee works as the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee had examined a very high number of state of conservation reports. It underlined the seriousness of the budgetary situation and called for a Draft Resolution on a greater allocation of the Regular Budget of UNESCO for the World Heritage Centre, which should, in turn, submit an outline on how the additional

US\$1million approved by Commission IV should be used. Finally the Delegation referred to the importance of evaluating the Cairns Decision<sup>2</sup>.

48. The Delegation of Canada congratulated the Chairperson for his well organized presentation. The Delegation expressed its regret that there are still 47 States Parties which have no World Heritage property. This represents approximately 27%, a percentage that has not improved over the past decade. On budgetary issues, the Delegation asked whether the additional US\$ 1 million approved by the Commission IV had already been earmarked for the World Heritage Secretariat or for the World Heritage Fund and suggested that the World Heritage Committee look at expenditure from these funds. It supported the proposal by Argentina to submit a Draft Resolution.

49. The Delegation of Benin expressed concern for the persistent imbalance between cultural and natural World Heritage properties and suggested a possible quota system to promote the inclusion of more natural properties on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, the Delegation emphasized the importance of capacity-building amongst decision-makers including the UNESCO National Commissions.

50. The Delegation of Australia congratulated the Chairperson for his report. The Delegation referred to the bilateral agreement between Australia and UNESCO on World Heritage and underlined that the Pacific Region is under-represented on the World Heritage List. It further observed that the report was a list of activities and did not provide outcomes and an analysis of achievements. The Delegation requested that in the future the report of the Committee be more strategic in scope. It made specific mention of the section of the report on the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, noting that it had been a difficult and time consuming debate that did not result in consensus. In this regard the Delegation called for clear, honest and strategic reporting with an honest appraisal of successes and an indication of where further work was needed.

51. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the Chairperson for his detailed report. The Delegation emphasized the importance of public awareness in safeguarding heritage and mentioned the development of an elaborate brochure for the

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<sup>2</sup> The World Heritage Committee decision now referred to as the "Cairns Decision" was a suite of decisions adopted by the 24th session of the Committee (Cairns, Australia, 27 November - 2 December 2000) aimed at improving the representativity of the World Heritage List and managing the workload of the Committee, Advisory Bodies, and the World Heritage Centre.

The "Cairns Decision" limited the number of new nominations to be examined each year by the Committee. Furthermore, the number of nominations to be submitted by each State Party was limited to one, except for those States Parties that had no properties on the World Heritage List who would have the opportunity to propose two or three nominations. Finally, the Committee requested that this Decision be reviewed after two years of operation.

At its 27th session (Paris, 30 June - 5 July 2003), the World Heritage Committee requested all States Parties to send comments and proposals on the Cairns Decision to the World Heritage Centre by 31 December 2003. Comments, sent by post to the address below, by facsimile to +33 (0) 1 4568-5570, or by e-mail to [cairns@unesco.org](mailto:cairns@unesco.org), will be made available on the following web site (<http://whc.unesco.org/cairns/>).

site of Tchogha Zanbil. Furthermore, the Delegation underlined the importance of evaluating the Cairns Decision<sup>3</sup>.

52. The Delegation of Italy supported the request made by the Delegation of Argentina for the World Heritage Centre to provide more information on bilateral agreements in the form of a document or publication. Concerning the budget situation, the Delegation recalled that the Main Lines of Action 1 and 2 already exist (reference was made to the 32C/5, Programme IV.2, IV.2.1. Promotion and implementation of the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage 1972), and Draft Resolution 12 for 32C/5 para.04210 (Italy, Greece, India) had been adopted by Commission IV. The Delegation suggested that the General Assembly should prepare a Draft Resolution to request a greater allocation of funds for the World Heritage Centre as the additional US\$1 million was not enough. It recommended an emphasis on the development of concrete tools for capacity-building in under-represented countries and to assist in the preparation of Tentative Lists and nominations to the World Heritage List. Finally, it suggested that the Director-General be requested to identify additional resources in the course of the biennium.

53. Before giving the floor to H.E. Samuel Fernandés Illanes (Chile), the Chairperson commended him for his work as Chairperson of the 13th General Assembly in 2001.

54. The Delegation of Chile remarked positively about the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* and the interim results of the Global Strategy, while commenting on the ongoing challenges of the work of the World Heritage Committee. It made particular reference to the worrying budget situation. The Delegation informed the General Assembly that Chile had recently established a Ministry of Culture.

55. The Delegation of Nigeria expressed its concerns for the regional imbalance of the World Heritage List and suggested that the Information Meeting in early 2004, or a preparatory meeting prior to the Committee session in 2004, discuss the Cairns Decision<sup>4</sup>.

56. The Delegation of Papua New Guinea congratulated the Chairperson and the World Heritage Committee for their report. In supporting the comments made by the Delegation of Australia, it highlighted the fact that the majority of the 47 States Parties with no properties on the World Heritage List are Pacific Island countries. The Delegation requested the World Heritage Committee to take actions in order to redress this imbalance and help to facilitate the process of World Heritage nominations in the Pacific. It suggested the allocation of part of the additional US\$1 million for the Pacific region. The Delegation thanked the Assistant Director-General for Culture who, when responding to the intervention of the Delegation of Fiji during Commission IV, had indicated that an expert from Headquarters would be posted to the UNESCO Apia Office to work on World Heritage and the intangible cultural heritage.

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<sup>3</sup> For an explanation of the Cairns Decision see Footnote 2

<sup>4</sup> For an explanation of the Cairns Decision see Footnote 2

57. Before giving the floor to the Delegation of Peru, the Chairperson congratulated the Delegation for Mr Alejandro Toledo's speech to the plenary session of the General Conference on 14 October 2003.

58. The Delegation of Peru thanked the Chairperson for his warm words and thanked the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for his report. It noted the considerable progress made by the work of the World Heritage Committee but expressed its concern for the diminishing financial resources of the World Heritage Centre which it thanked for its tremendous work. The Delegation expressed its surprise that whilst the work of the Centre is excellent, its resources were effectively reduced, as if the Centre was being punished.

59. The Delegation of Mexico supported the Delegations of Italy and Argentina in calling for a Draft Resolution to explore the possibility of additional resources for the World Heritage Centre. It further welcomed the new States Parties which had ratified the *Convention*.

60. The Delegation of the Marshall Islands congratulated the Chairperson of the Committee for his presentation. It commented, as a new member to the *Convention*, on the importance of consistent and long-term capacity building for all countries in the region and further highlighted that the Pacific region is under-represented on the World Heritage List due to logistic, administrative and financial difficulties. The Delegation requested the World Heritage Centre to provide information on the status of pending nominations in Kiribati, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia as a way "to put pressure on ourselves" to complete the long nomination process.

61. The Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo expressed its gratitude for the restoration activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre in the country while deploring the damage caused by military action. It highlighted the significant role played by education in heritage protection and made a reference to the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). The Delegation also acknowledged the importance of promoting natural heritage and mentioned its future nomination of natural sites.

62. The Delegation of Saint Lucia thanked the Chairperson of the Committee for his presentation. It noted the general agreement of the States Parties with the Delegations of Italy and Argentina who had requested that the Director-General identify more resources for the World Heritage Centre. The Delegation indicated that the additional US\$ 1 million approved by the Commission IV is not enough to meet the challenges and expectations outlined by all States Parties.

63. The Delegation of Suriname thanked the Chairperson for his report and referred to its existing World Heritage properties. It expressed its support for finding more resources for the World Heritage Centre.

64. The Delegation of Greece congratulated the Chairperson of the Committee for his report. It endorsed the Committee's Strategic Objectives and supported particularly the importance of capacity building, and assistance to the sites inscribed

on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Delegation further recalled its activities in translating World Heritage in Young Hands into Greek and its publication on Greek monuments during the 30th anniversary of the *Convention* in 2002. Finally it informed the General Assembly that the 2004 Olympic Games will take place in Athens, the location of the World Heritage listed Acropolis.

65. The Delegation of Turkey thanked the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee. It expressed hope that the next report of the Committee would place greater emphasis on awareness-raising activities. With reference to the Delegation of Italy's requests for more resources for World Heritage, the Delegation of Turkey referred to its expression of support in Commission IV and reiterated its support once more. It emphasized the need for reinforcement of UNESCO's most successful flagship.

66. The Delegation of Madagascar thanked the Chairperson of the Committee for his report on the intense activities of the Committee. It expressed its concern for the credibility of the World Heritage List and called for continued action on promotion and awareness-raising. It noted that resources are required to prepare nominations. It also supported the Delegations of Argentina and Italy for submitting a Draft Resolution to Commission IV. It concluded that additional resources were essential if the World Heritage Centre was to implement the *Convention* properly.

67. The Delegation of South Africa recalled the strong presence of the World Heritage Centre during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and had therefore expected a reference to this in the report of the Committee. It strongly underlined the need to evaluate the Cairns Decision<sup>5</sup>. The Decision had been taken after many months of discussion but had created an unfair situation and was a formula that had not worked. The Delegation indicated that all countries from the South are under-represented on the World Heritage List, noting that 99% of those not included on the List are from the South. The Delegation further shared the concern expressed by the Delegation of Saint Lucia regarding the need to find more financial resources to the World Heritage Centre and supported the proposals made by the Delegations of Argentina and Italy. Finally the Delegation thanked the Director of the World Heritage Centre for his work.

68. The Delegation of Mongolia expressed its gratitude for the inscription of a transboundary World Heritage site ofUvs Nuur Basin (2003) on the World Heritage List and remarked on the importance of promoting natural transboundary sites. The Delegation further pointed out the link between the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Committee and the MAB programme and mentioned that Mongolia is preparing for two future nominations of cultural landscapes.

69. The Delegation of Hungary supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Saint Lucia. It expressed its special and personal thanks to the World Heritage Committee, the Chairperson of the Committee, the Bureau and the Secretariat as Hungary was leaving the Committee. It suggested that the World Heritage Committee advance its work on the Strategic Objectives and consider a fifth "C", Continuity.

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<sup>5</sup> For an explanation of the Cairns Decision see Footnote 2  
Summary Record  
14th General Assembly of States Parties

70. The Delegation of Kuwait welcomed the global and technical report of the Committee. The Delegation thanked the Committee for its work on the safeguarding of heritage in Afghanistan, Iran and the Palestinian territories, as well as for organizing a capacity-building meeting in the Gulf region. The Delegation emphasized the need to link World Heritage related programmes with educational activities (formal, informal and literacy education) in order to raise awareness about World Heritage. Furthermore, the Delegation requested the World Heritage Centre to provide more information and details on bi-lateral cooperation. The Delegation thanked the Director of the Centre for having begun to organize with the Gulf region stronger bi-lateral co-operation for capacity-building.

71. The Delegation of Afghanistan thanked the Chairperson of the Committee for his presentation. It deplored the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas and thanked the World Heritage Committee for taking action on the safeguarding of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam and Cultural Landscape and Archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley. The Delegation thanked the Director of the Centre and his team for having brought the attention of the World Heritage Committee to the heritage of Afghanistan.

72. The Delegation of Kenya congratulated the Chairperson of the Committee for his report and thanked the staff that had prepared it. It expressed continuing concern about the under representation of certain regions including Africa on the World Heritage List and noted that lack of capacity contributes to this problem. The Delegation acknowledged the efforts to address the situation and suggested that a special report on regional efforts to address under representation on the World Heritage List be presented to each General Assembly.

73. The Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina congratulated the Chairperson of the Committee on his report. It noted the imbalances in the World Heritage List, with two thirds of States Parties having fewer than three properties on the List. It referred to the rich cultural and natural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina but noted that many cultural monuments in the country had been destroyed. War and a poor economic situation contributed to the lack of representation of its heritage on the World Heritage List. The Delegation informed the General Assembly that the Old City of Mostar is included on a national list of heritage in danger and requested that UNESCO provide more assistance to this and other sites. It concluded by stating that UNESCO's support would help build peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

74. The Delegation of Fiji congratulated the Chairperson of the Committee for his excellent report. It endorsed the views put forward by the Delegations of Australia, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands and Suriname concerning the importance of promoting under represented regions such as the Pacific. The Delegation also underlined a need to pay greater attention to capacity-building. The Delegation endorsed the proposal for a Draft Resolution from the Delegation of Italy.

75. The Delegation of Togo supported the comments made by the Delegation of Benin and remarked that future activities should focus on achieving concrete results on the Global Strategy. The Delegation mentioned a new World Heritage nomination for the site known as the Habitat Vernaculaire Bétammaribé.

76. The Delegation of India highlighted the challenges that the World Heritage Committee is facing and noted a common concern about the lack of representativity of the World Heritage List. The Delegation referred to the important steps after the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List noting that more resources are required, particularly for conservation and management of these sites. It questioned how the increasing number of state of conservation reports and the Periodic Reports would be reported and asked whether this would lead to an increase in the length of the Committee session. It suggested consideration be given to a more proactive approach to extending assistance to properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

77. The Chairperson of the General Assembly indicated that he had come to the end of his list of speakers.

78. The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Mr Zhang, thanked the General Assembly for their constructive comments and for the words of appreciation to the World Heritage Committee, the Rapporteur and the World Heritage Centre. He indicated that the comments of the States Parties would help to determine the future agenda and priorities of the Committee. He shared the concern of the States Parties about the high number of States Parties with no properties on the World Heritage List, the imbalance between cultural and natural heritage and between regions and categories. He informed the General Assembly that the Committee and the Secretariat would take action on this matter. He noted calls for a Resolution on the key issue of the budget and acknowledged that the budgetary situation for the World Heritage Centre is of concern. He concluded by inviting States Parties to continue providing input to him over the coming months.

79. The Director of the World Heritage Centre informed the General Assembly that the World Heritage Centre received US\$1 million from the Regular Budget both in 2000-2001 and 2002-2003. For 2004-2005 the World Heritage Centre would receive US\$ 2 million as well as an additional US\$1 million. However, there would be a reduction in the World Heritage Fund budget for 2004-2005 of about US\$ 3.6 million. Concerning the use of the additional US\$ 1 million, a priority list had already been decided by the World Heritage Committee. Finally, the Director indicated that the World Heritage Centre would in future provide more information on its bilateral cooperation.

80. The Delegation of Argentina presented the contents of its proposed Draft Resolution. It recalled Decision **27 COM 11** of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (Paris, 2003) and took note with satisfaction of the expected allocation by the 32nd General Conference of an additional US\$ 1 million for activities directed at the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. It invited the World Heritage Centre to submit to the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, China, 2004) specific proposals on the use of the referred additional amount, based on Main Line of Action 2 of Sub-Programme IV 2.1 of Document 32 C/5 and recommended that, when preparing the draft, Document 33 C/5, the Director-General explore additional resources from the regular budget of UNESCO for the activities of the World Heritage Centre.

81. The Delegation of Italy thanked the Delegation of Argentina and supported the proposed Draft Resolution. Concerning paragraph 3, it recalled that the strategy for the Main Line of Action 2 had already been outlined in the document 32C/5 and fully reflected the Strategic Objectives of the Committee. It again emphasized that even with the additional US\$ 1 million the budget was not sufficient and that the budget for World Heritage in the next biennium should include more resources.

82. The Delegation of India supported the Delegation of Italy on paragraph 3 of the Draft Resolution and further underlined the importance of capacity building as an important building block for the work undertaken by the World Heritage Committee. The Delegation further commented that the World Heritage Fund had been wrongly seen as a substitute for the Regular Budget. Instead, the World Heritage Fund should be seen as an additional source of funding and that this should be reflected in the Draft Resolution. The Delegation concluded that there is a need to increase the base or core budget for World Heritage activities.

83. The Delegation of Japan acknowledged that money was short for World Heritage and offered no objection to the Draft Resolution in principal, however it brought the attention of the General Assembly to Rule 11 of the *Rules of Procedure* which states that Draft Resolutions shall be transmitted in writing to the Secretariat who shall circulate copies to all participants.

84. The Delegation of Peru supported the Draft Resolution proposed by Argentina and suggested further discussions with the Delegation of Italy to find the source of the US\$ 1 million proposed by Commission IV.

85. The Delegation of Benin supported the Draft Resolution of Argentina. The Delegation requested that the Secretariat ensure that the additional funds are spent wisely for concrete actions and with a focus on capacity-building and technical assistance.

86. The Secretariat informed the General Assembly that it would work in consultation with the Delegation of Argentina in finalizing the Draft Resolution to be presented on the following day.

87. On the following day (15 October 2003), the Secretariat presented Draft Resolution **14 GA 5** that elaborated on the original Draft Resolution of the Delegation of Argentina. It referred to the General Assembly, having examined the financial situation of the World Heritage Fund and the contribution of UNESCO to the activities of the World Heritage Centre as planned in the 32 C/5 and recognized the need to increase the financial contributions for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. It reaffirmed the need to consider the role of the World Heritage Fund as an additional contribution to the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, rather than as a substitute to contributions coming from the regular budget of UNESCO. It recalled Decision **27 COM 11** of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (Paris, 2003). The Draft Resolution continued by noting the expected allocation by the 32nd session of the General Conference of an additional US \$1 million for activities directed at the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, inviting the World Heritage Centre to submit to the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, China, 2004), specific proposals on

the use of the referred additional amount, based on Main Line of Action 2 of Sub-programme IV.2.1 of Document 32 C/5 and recommending that, when preparing the draft Document 33 C/5, the Director-General explore additional resources from the regular budget of UNESCO for the activities of the World Heritage Centre.

88. The Delegation of Afghanistan proposed to clarify paragraph 7 of the Draft Resolution as to where the resources would be coming from and to make reference to the need to seek additional financial resources from extra-budgetary sources.

89. The Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the Draft Resolution but highlighted the urgent need to allocate more resources for Central and Eastern Europe.

90. The Delegation of Cuba supported the Draft Resolution and remarked that the resource allocation should be increased for the World Heritage Centre and made a reference to some US\$ 20 million that had been allocated to improve the security of the UNESCO Headquarters.

91. On a point of order the Delegation of Afghanistan withdrew its first proposal as the Delegation realized that the Draft Resolution was referring to the 33 C/5 and not the 32 C/5. The Delegation confirmed that it still wished to retain its proposed second amendment.

92. The Delegation of the Czech Republic supported the Draft Resolution.

93. The Delegation of Saint Lucia urged only those States Parties that wished to propose amendments to take the floor.

94. The Delegation of Canada pointed out that paragraph 3 should clarify the differences between the World Heritage Fund contributed by the States Parties and the allocation made by the World Heritage Committee, and the Regular Budget which is for the implementation of activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre. The Delegation offered to propose an amendment.

95. The Delegation of Belgium supported the Delegation of Canada and further suggested an amendment to paragraph 7 to read "...the Director-General explore, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, from the regular budget of UNESCO....".

96. The Delegation of Turkey proposed to change "contributions" to "resources" in paragraph 2.

97. The Chairperson noted that the Delegation of Argentina was indicating its agreement with this amendment.

98. The Delegation of India referred to the debate of Commission IV on Draft Resolution 12 (32C/5 paragraph 04210) and suggested to make it clear that the requested additional resources would not be at the expense of other activities undertaken by the Culture Sector. On the amendment proposed by the Delegation of Belgium, the Delegation of India did not think the consultation with the Committee was necessary.

99. The Delegation of Italy referred to the Draft 32C/5 and noted that the use of the Regular Budget concerns all States Parties.

100. The Delegation of India stated that it would follow the decision of the General Assembly.

101. The Delegation of Poland gave its support in principle. It noted that in Commission IV Member States had expressed their concern about resources for World Heritage.

102. The Delegation of Saint Lucia supported the Delegation of Belgium and pointed out that the proposed wording in paragraph 7 would not legally bind the Director-General.

103. The Delegation of the United Kingdom supported the proposal made by the Delegations of Belgium and Saint Lucia, as did the Delegations of Colombia, Peru and Grenada.

104. The Delegation of Senegal indicated that it was not against the proposition of Belgium but that there were many committees and the situation could become complicated if each time a committee made a request for resources that this should be done in consultation with the Director-General. The Delegation added that the Director-General could make propositions for the budget but he was not obliged to consult the organs before seeking the resources.

105. The Delegation of India expressed its concern that it could be time consuming for the Director-General to find additional funds for World Heritage. However, the Delegation indicated that if consultation with the Committee would assist the Director-General in this regard, then it would agree to the proposal made by the Delegation of Belgium.

106. The Secretariat confirmed that consultation between the Director General and the World Heritage Committee could strengthen support for the World Heritage Centre.

107. The Chairperson recommended adoption of the amendment proposed by the Delegation of Belgium.

108. The Delegation of the Netherlands expressed its support.

109. The Delegation of Canada read out a proposed amendment for paragraph 3 to reflect the differences between the World Heritage Fund and the Regular Budget as stated earlier - "Reaffirming that the World Heritage Fund was created to protect World Heritage sites and cannot be used to support the activities of the World Heritage Centre for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*."

110. The Chairperson asked the General Assembly whether it agreed to adopt the amendment proposed by the Delegation of Canada. It was adopted.

111. The Chairperson made a reference to an earlier proposal by the Delegation of Afghanistan and suggested to include "extra budgetary resources" in paragraph 7.

112. The Delegation of Afghanistan read out the proposed wording - "as well as seek financial means from the extrabudgetary resources for the activities of the World Heritage Centre".

113. The Delegation of Italy reminded the General Assembly that extra budgetary resources had been financing the majority of activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre. Furthermore, the Delegation expressed its concern, in relation to the amendment proposed by the Delegation of Belgium, that the consultation should not become an institutionalized procedure as not all States Parties contribute to extra budgetary resources.

114. The Delegation of Japan supported the comments made by the Delegation of Italy and remarked that Japan is one of the major donor countries.

115. The Delegation of the United Kingdom supported the Delegation of Italy and proposed an alternative wording to paragraph 7 - "Recommends that, when preparing the draft Document 33 C/5, the Director-General explore additional resources from the Regular Budget of UNESCO as well as from extrabudgetary resources for the activities of the World Heritage Centre".

116. The Delegation of India proposed to make a new paragraph 8, which would separately recommend that the Director-General seek additional extra budgetary resources for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. It noted that the primary intention of the General Assembly was to ask the Director-General to seek more funding from the Regular Budget for World Heritage.

117. The Delegation of Saint Lucia supported the Delegation of India, as did the Delegations of Peru, Portugal and Venezuela.

118. The Delegation of Israel supported the proposal and emphasized the need to acknowledge the contributions of donor countries in the Resolution.

119. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to make changes to the Draft Resolution according to the discussion.

120. On the afternoon of 15 October 2003, the Director of the World Heritage Centre presented the revised Draft Resolution **14 GA 5** and explained that it was prepared in the spirit of the discussion. He indicated that following consultations with the Delegation of Canada, the wording of paragraph 2 had been changed to only refer to the Regular Budget.

121. The Delegation of Canada supported the revised Draft Resolution. It remarked that the clarification on the differences between the Regular Budget and the World Heritage Fund was however important and again emphasized that the World Heritage Fund was created to protect World Heritage sites and could not be used to support the activities of the World Heritage Centre for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

122. The Delegation of South Africa supported the comments made by the Delegation of Canada.

123. The Delegation of France commented that there was a problem with the wording in the French version and proposed to replace in paragraph 4 "par" by "à".

124. The Draft Resolution was adopted as amended.

## **RESOLUTION 14 GA 5**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Having examined the financial situation of the World Heritage Fund and the contribution of UNESCO to the activities of the World Heritage Centre as planned in the 32 C/5,*
2. *Recognizing the need to increase the financial resources from the UNESCO Regular Budget for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention,*
3. *Recalling Decision 27 COM 11 of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (Paris, 2003),*
4. *Recalling its wish that the 32nd General Conference allocate an additional US\$ 1 million for activities directed at the implementation of the World Heritage Convention,*
5. *Invites the World Heritage Centre to inform the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, China, 2004), as to the use of the referred additional amount, based on Main Line of Action 2 of Sub-programme IV.2.1 of document 32 C/5, according to Decision 27 COM 11.3,*
6. *Recommends that, when preparing the draft document 33 C/5, the Director-General explore additional resources for the activities of the World Heritage Centre from the Regular Budget of UNESCO, in consultation with the World Heritage Committee;*
7. *Further recommends that when preparing the draft document 33 C/5 the Director-General also seek additional extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;*
8. *Acknowledges and expresses thanks to those donors who have supported the activities of the World Heritage Centre.*

**6. EXAMINATION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND, INCLUDING THE STATUS OF THE STATES PARTIES' CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Documents: WHC-03/14.GA/6  
WHC-03/14.GA/INF.6*

125. After introducing the documents and making himself available to answer questions from the Delegations of the States Parties, the Comptroller of UNESCO drew attention to the fact that the accounts of the World Heritage Fund referred to in point 3 of Draft Resolution **14 GA 6** covered an 18-month period up to June 2003.

126. There being no observations on the statement of accounts, the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* adopted the following Resolution.

**RESOLUTION 14 GA 6**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Having examined the accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period ending 31 December 2001 (see Section I of document WHC-03/14.GA/INF.6) in conformity with the Financial Regulations of the World Heritage Fund that stipulate that the accounts of the Fund shall be submitted to the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention (Article 6, paragraph 6.4),*
2. *Approves the accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period ending 31 December 2001;*
3. *Takes note of the accounts of the World Heritage Fund for 2002, approved by the Comptroller (see Section III of document WHC-03/14.GA/INF.6).*

**7. DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 16 OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION**

*Documents: WHC-03/14.GA/7  
WHC-03/14.GA/INF.7 Rev.*

127. The Chairperson of the General Assembly introduced this item.

128. The Comptroller of UNESCO presented an oral update of the statement of contributions of States Parties to the World Heritage Fund as at 13 October 2003. He confirmed that none of the States Parties seeking election to the World Heritage Committee were in arrears with the payment of their compulsory or voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund and that all of those States Parties were

therefore eligible to present themselves for election. There being no other observations, the following Resolutions were adopted.

#### **RESOLUTION 14 GA 7.1**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Decides to set at 1% the percentage for the calculation of the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties for the financial period 2004-2005;*
2. *Invites the Director-General to encourage States Parties to supplement their contributions to the World Heritage Fund with voluntary donations.*

#### **RESOLUTION 14 GA 7.2**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Recalling Decision 27 COM 11.3 of the World Heritage Committee which urges States Parties in arrears to pay their overdue contributions to the World Heritage Fund and invites the Director-General to report to it on this matter,*
2. *Takes note of document WHC-03/14.GA/INF.7 Rev. on the Statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund.*

### **8. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A CREDIBLE, REPRESENTATIVE AND BALANCED WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

*Documents: WHC-03/14.GA/8  
WHC-03/14.GA/INF.8*

129. The Chairperson opened the item. He recalled that at its 12th session (Paris, 1999), the General Assembly of States Parties invited the Secretariat to "submit to the General Assembly a progress report on the implementation of the regional and multi-year Action Plan" for the Global Strategy.

130. The Secretariat presented the main points concerning the progress report on the Global Strategy, pointing out that almost ten years had passed since the Committee had adopted the Global Strategy.

131. The Chairperson asked the General Assembly if it wished to adopt Draft Resolution **14 GA 8** as presented in document *WHC-03/14.GA/8* and invited comments from the floor.

132. The Delegation of Norway expressed its country's appreciation of the important Global Strategy work initiative by the World Heritage Committee. It stated that it looked forward to the analyses of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists to be presented by ICOMOS and IUCN. It referred to progress achieved in the representation of natural sites on the List, and to the increased attention being paid to spiritual values and sacred sites. It fully supported improving the balance among the natural and cultural sites on the List and referred to the Periodic Reporting exercise as a very important tool for improving the credibility of the List. It referred to the importance of linking with other UNESCO programmes dealing with natural heritage. Moreover, the Delegation referred to the discussions on cultural diversity, seen from the point of view of the Global Strategy, as strengthening efforts for a better geographical distribution of properties on the List. Moreover, the Delegation of Norway highlighted that the Nordic countries supported the objectives of the Africa 2009 programme and give priority to assisting un- or under-represented States Parties. It referred to the Nordic World Heritage Foundation as an important tool for implementing the Global Strategy.

133. The Delegation of Italy warmly welcomed the 11 new States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* and stated that "global membership" should also be the objective of the Global Strategy. It commented that although the Global Strategy was well intended, there was room for adjustments and improvements. The Delegation recalled that the Global Strategy would be discussed in detail at the next Committee meeting in China in 2004. Referring to the progress report presented in document *WHC-03/14.GA/8*, the Delegation of Italy drew attention to disparities in the capacities of States Parties to prepare Tentative Lists and submit nominations. It proposed to add an additional paragraph to the Draft Resolution focused on providing more resources for the implementation of capacity building and training.

134. The Delegation of Iceland supported the intervention by the Delegation of Norway and added that awareness should be raised on the restoration of cultural heritage. It stressed the broad experience of Norway and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, particularly in the field of involving young people in cultural heritage restoration activities.

135. The Delegation of Belgium supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Italy to amend the Draft Resolution, stating that it would better reflect the need to move from recommendations to action. The Delegation requested the World Heritage Centre to clarify whether replies to the Circular Letter concerning the representativity of the List<sup>6</sup> had been sufficient to answer the call launched by the General Assembly in 1999. The General Assembly had requested the Secretariat to prepare a progress report on the implementation and submit it for discussion to the General Assembly.

136. The Delegation of Hungary supported the interventions of the Delegations of Italy and Belgium to improve the language of the Draft Resolution by stressing the need for action. Referring to paragraph 6 of the Committee decision **27 COM 14**,

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<sup>6</sup> Representativity of the World Heritage List - follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties (1999) (CL/WHC.4/01 of 18 June 2001) located at <http://whc.unesco.org/circs/circ01-4e.pdf> (English) and <http://whc.unesco.org/circs/circ01-4f.pdf> (French) with the responses at <http://whc.unesco.org/circs/circ01-4-responses.pdf>

which requests States Parties to send comments and proposals on the Cairns Decision<sup>7</sup> to the World Heritage Centre by 31 December 2003, it remarked that it was not adequate to work on this issue from a mathematical angle only, but that it should be dealt with in greater depth.

137. The Delegation of Benin said that the working document was too arid and should have been more exhaustive to reflect in a clearer way the progress made. It supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Italy, to which it wished to add the reinforcement of capacity building, training and developing networks in under-represented States Parties. The Delegation of Benin stated that special attention should be given to the States Parties from the Pacific and Caribbean regions as new States Parties.

138. The Delegation of the Czech Republic endorsed the comments by the Delegations of Italy and Belgium and proposed to amend the Draft Resolution in line with the intervention by the Delegation of Benin. It proposed to invite the World Heritage Committee to undertake an in-depth analysis of the sources and causes of under-representativity in the World Heritage List.

139. The Secretariat replied to the comment made by the Delegation of Benin concerning the working document by informing the General Assembly that a full progress report on the implementation of the Global Strategy and its regional Action Plans had been submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its last session in June/July 2003 (see document *WHC-03/27.COM/13*). It proposed to circulate copies of this document to the General Assembly. The Secretariat commented that this information had not been presented to the General Assembly as it had already been presented to the recent Committee session. It questioned whether it was necessary procedurally for the same information to also be presented to the General Assembly. Concerning the question raised by the Delegation of Belgium, the Secretariat indicated that very few replies had been received to Circular Letters concerning the representativity of the World Heritage List that had been sent in previous years. The Secretariat informed the General Assembly that all States Parties had been invited to comment on the Cairns Decision<sup>8</sup> by 31 December 2003. The Secretariat continued by informing the General Assembly that it was currently discussing what kind of statistics and evaluations were needed to assist the World Heritage Committee in its evaluation of the Global Strategy and the Cairns Decision at its 28th session in 2004. Finally the Secretariat indicated that these matters would be discussed at the meeting with the Advisory Bodies on 16 October 2003.

140. The Chairperson asked the Delegations of Italy and the Czech Republic to provide written amendments to the Draft Resolution before the start of the morning session the next day.

141. The Delegation of Japan, on a point or order, underlined the need to receive the proposals for the amendments in written form.

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<sup>7</sup> For an explanation of the Cairns Decision see Footnote 2

<sup>8</sup> For an explanation of the Cairns Decision see Footnote 2

142. The Delegation of the United Kingdom welcomed the clarification provided by the Secretariat and acknowledged the progress it had made in the implementation of the Global Strategy. While remarking that the Draft Resolution presented in document *WHC-03/14.GA/8* was acceptable for their Delegation, they insisted on the need to have a real purpose when asking for information rather than requesting it simply as a matter of routine.

143. The Delegation of India requested the Director of the World Heritage Centre to clarify whether progress reports on the implementation of the Global Strategy should be presented to the World Heritage Committee or to the General Assembly. The Delegation said that the World Heritage Committee document (*WHC-03/27.COM/13*) referred to by the Secretariat should have been distributed to the General Assembly.

144. The Director of the World Heritage Centre replied that the decision on the matter of the submission of progress reports should be taken by the General Assembly. He however stated that the World Heritage Committee had the opportunity to follow the status of the Global Strategy more frequently and should thus be the body to which the Secretariat should report, while the role of the General Assembly should be to summarize the results.

145. The Delegation of India thanked the Director for this clarification and insisted that the General Assembly be provided with the necessary information.

146. The Secretariat informed the General Assembly that it had received a number of enquiries concerning the possibility of voting by proxy. The Secretariat indicated that the Legal Advisor had advised that proxy voting was not possible.

147. The debate on this agenda item adjourned at this point until the following day (15 October 2003) at which time a revised Draft Resolution was circulated.

148. The Delegation of the United Kingdom agreed with the revised Draft Resolution but pointed out a problem with its practicality. It raised concerns about additional work requested from the Secretariat and duplication with the tasks to be performed in preparation of the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou. It proposed to end paragraph 2 after "World Heritage List" (therefore removing the words "and to submit pertinent proposals in this respect to the 169th session of the UNESCO Executive Board and to the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou, China (28 June - 7 July 2004)", and to add to paragraph 3: "...to ensure that the documentation to be submitted to the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou includes an in-depth analysis of the implementation of this Strategic Objective."

149. Upon request by the Chairperson, the Legal Advisor remarked that paragraph 2 which invited the Director-General to allocate greater financial resources to the World Heritage Centre presented some difficulties. Firstly, he indicated that duplication should be avoided with Draft Resolution **14 GA 5** and secondly, the Executive Board should not be referred to in this way in this kind of Resolution. He informed the General Assembly that the Director-General of UNESCO provides a Secretariat for the World Heritage Committee and the States Parties decide about the

tasks of the Secretariat. He recommended not to mention the Executive Board and to remove the reference to financial issues.

150. The Delegation of Italy reiterated its reasoning behind the wording of the Draft Resolution by indicating the need to respond to the many States Parties, such as new States Parties to the *Convention* and under-represented and un-represented countries, who were requesting improved capacity building as a tool for the implementation of the Global Strategy. This in turn, implies the need for additional resources. It noted that the spring session of the Executive Board would examine additional funding from the carry-over from the previous biennium's budget. The Delegation suggested that a part of these funds could be utilized to this end. Finally it remarked that the issue of capacity building was raised in the true spirit of co-operation and solidarity, bearing in mind the shared goal to protect our common heritage.

151. The Delegation of Saint Lucia agreed with the suggestion by the Delegation of the United Kingdom to delete the sentence in paragraph 2. It expressed its concerns about overloading the World Heritage Centre with unnecessary studies. It stressed that the cause for under-representativity was well known, namely "Money". Regarding extrabudgetary funding, the Delegation stressed that these funds are used according to the requests of the donors, and not necessarily according to the priorities of the Committee.

152. The Delegation of Canada supported the proposal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, but said that it could also agree with the Draft Resolution as proposed originally.

153. The Delegation of Kenya supported the proposal by the Delegation of Saint Lucia, recalling that reports concerning the evaluation of the Global Strategy were already in preparation for the next Committee meeting.

154. The Delegation of Benin commended the Delegation of Italy for having expressed the concerns of many States Parties. Regarding paragraph 3 of the Draft Resolution that requested "the World Heritage Committee to undertake an in-depth analysis of the causes of the under-representation of the World Heritage List", it suggested that the Committee needed to pay more attention to over-represented regions and countries. The studies being prepared should help the Committee to better distribute the funds. The Delegation invited the World Heritage Committee to cooperate with the Advisory Bodies to submit an in-depth study of the situation. It indicated that problems go beyond mere financial issues: they are linked to the need for better awareness and lack of expertise within the States Parties themselves. Finally the Delegation suggested that World Heritage Committees be created on the national level to work on improving the situation.

155. The Director of the World Heritage Centre recalled that the analyses of the List and Tentative Lists being conducted by the Advisory Bodies should be the basis for preparing the ground for future action and in the drafting of an Action Plan. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies could propose an Action Plan at the next session of the World Heritage Committee.

156. The Delegation of Hungary supported the proposal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, adding that it could also agree to keep only paragraph 1 and add a reference to an Action Plan to be prepared by the World Heritage Centre.

157. The Delegation of Belgium insisted that the text of the Draft Resolution did not reflect the content of the debates. Firstly, it should be acknowledged that representativity and credibility were at the core of the Committee's debates; secondly, it should be noted that a report will be presented and added to the agenda of the next Committee meeting in Suzhou; thirdly, the amendment proposed by the Delegation of the United Kingdom should be adopted, and finally, the World Heritage Committee and the Director-General of UNESCO should be encouraged to take all the necessary measures as rapidly as possible.

158. The Delegation of Finland expressed its disagreement with the Delegation of Saint Lucia while agreeing with the Delegation of Benin. Regarding paragraph 3, it suggested to wait for the outcome of the Advisory Bodies' analyses, and once this outcome is known, the World Heritage Centre should be asked to prepare an Action Plan. It was time for the Committee to take action against under-representativity, as its' credibility was at stake.

159. The Delegation of Australia thanked the Delegation of Italy while sharing the concerns expressed by the Delegation of the United Kingdom and stated that the current wording of the Draft Resolution did not reflect the problem. Under-representativity was linked both to funding issues and to priority-setting by the World Heritage Committee and the States Parties. The Committee should develop recommendations to urgently address the under-representativity of the List and should also adopt a time frame for action.

160. The Delegation of South Africa spoke in favour of retaining the Draft Resolution and emphasized that while in some cases both regions and States Parties were under-represented, there were also under-represented regions with over-represented States Parties. The Delegation suggested to add "States Parties" after "regions" in paragraph 2. It also supported the preparation of an Action Plan.

161. The Delegation of India, in line with the advice provided by the Legal Adviser, supported the proposal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom. Concerning paragraph 3, it stated that analyses were an ongoing process and that the Advisory Bodies had been asked to bring proposals to the Committee. Agreeing with statements by the Delegations of Belgium and Australia, it remarked that action was the missing element and suggested to add "preliminary proposal of an Action Plan to improve the situation" to paragraph 3.

162. The Delegation of Peru concurred with the Legal Advisor and the Delegations of Belgium, the United Kingdom and Italy. It suggested that the General Assembly express its wish that some of the carry-over funds be used for this activity. It suggested that a drafting group be created to refine the wording of the Draft Resolution.

163. The Chairperson asked that this drafting group should take into consideration three points that had been debated: the advice of the Legal Advisor not to refer to the Executive Board, the question of the carry-over and the Action Plan.

164. The Delegation of Slovenia stressed the importance of this Draft Resolution and noted that it provided only some points acceptable to the majority. It commented that the Director-General of UNESCO could not allocate greater resources after the approval by the General Conference of the budget and would have to wait until the 33 C/5. It also spoke in favour of the need for action and requested the World Heritage Centre to provide in-depth analyses to be prepared for presentation to the Suzhou session. Such analyses are important for many countries, not only under-represented, but could also help in cases where the Advisory Bodies had submitted controversial evaluations on specific nominations.

165. The Delegation of the Czech Republic did not agree with limiting the problems to financial issues, and remarked that there were also under-represented types of sites in industrialized regions and States Parties, such as modern and industrial heritage. A process of in-depth analysis was important to determine the causes.

166. The Delegation of Zimbabwe supported the creation of a drafting group as proposed by the Chairperson. It recalled that the focus on capacity building in under-represented States Parties should not be lost. It opted for the suggestion brought forward by the Delegation of Australia. It stressed that this needed to be looked at in conjunction with Draft Resolution **14 GA 5** and to reflect implementation of the Action Plan.

167. The Delegation of New Zealand stressed that one should not lose sight of the purpose of this Draft Resolution to promote capacity building. It agreed with the Delegation of Benin in stressing that there were also cultural reasons for under-representativity and supported the creation of a drafting group.

168. The Delegation of Saint Lucia remarked that a drafting group was not needed and that the Secretariat could propose a new drafting of the Draft Resolution taking into consideration the comments made during the debate.

169. The Chairperson declared that a working group consisting of Italy, Belgium, Saint Lucia, Benin, India, Peru and other countries wishing to attend would convene during the free time in the election process and propose a final wording of the Draft Resolution **14 GA 8**.

170. The Secretariat distributed the new drafting of the Draft Resolution during the counting of the votes under item 9 (Elections to the World Heritage Committee).

171. The Delegation of Hungary recommended adopting the revised Draft Resolution as it fully reflected the discussion that had taken place.

172. The Delegations of Canada, Gambia, Mauritania, Greece and Niger also recommended adoption.

173. The Delegations of Belgium and China proposed language corrections in the French version.

174. The Delegation of France remarked that there was a legal problem in paragraph 4 "Furthermore an allocation of part of the carry-over of the 2002-2003 regular budget should be considered for this purpose", as the General Assembly did not have the power to decide for the Executive Board, and proposed a change in the wording ("could" instead of "should"), which was supported by the Delegation of Germany.

175. Following the submission of a further written amendment by the Delegation of France, which was read in French and English to the General Assembly, the Draft Resolution was adopted as amended.

### **RESOLUTION 14 GA 8**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Welcomes the adoption by the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee of new Strategic Objectives that include the strengthening of the Credibility of the World Heritage List and the development of effective Capacity-building measures;*
2. *Notes the progress report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List presented in documents WHC-03/14.GA/8 and WHC-03/27.COM/13;*
3. *Also notes that the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou, China, June-July 2004) will evaluate the 1994 Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List;*
4. *Recommends that additional financial resources be allocated to the World Heritage Centre for programmes to strengthen capacity in the States Parties and regions under-represented on the World Heritage List. In addition, an allocation of part of the carry-over of unobligated funds of the regular budget for 2002-2003 could be considered for this purpose by the Executive Board during one of its forthcoming sessions;*
5. *Requests that the World Heritage Centre include in its evaluation of the Global Strategy to be submitted to the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee, draft proposals so as to enable the Committee to develop appropriate action plans.*

### **9. ELECTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

*Documents: WHC-03/14.GA/9  
WHC-03/14.GA/INF.9A  
WHC-03/14.GA/INF.9B*

176. The Chairperson opened the item.

177. The Director of the World Heritage Centre read the text of the Resolution of the 7th General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* (1989).

178. The Chairperson drew the attention of the General Assembly to document *WHC-03/14.GA/INF.9B*, which provides information on the composition of the World Heritage Committee since 1976. He indicated that elections are to be held for a total of eight seats on the World Heritage Committee and read the names of the 13 members of the World Heritage Committee who remain until the end of the 33rd and 34th sessions of the General Conference as well as the names of the eight outgoing members. He commended the Government of Belgium (whose mandate was to expire at the end of the 33rd session of the General Conference, 2005) for having voluntarily given up its seat on the Committee after only four years.

179. The Delegation of Belgium confirmed its decision to leave its seat on the Committee after four rather than six years, which was inspired by the wish to improve the rotation within the Committee. It requested that all the States Parties candidates express whether they intended or not to reduce their term of office from six to four years. The Delegation also asked to be informed by the Chairperson on the representativity of the region before each announcement of a candidate.

180. The Delegation of Saint Lucia supported this intervention.

181. The Delegation of Chile also supported the intervention of Belgium and announced his country's intention to reduce its term of office in the Committee from six to four years if elected.

182. The Chairperson explained that out of eight seats to be filled, one of these seats will be allocated to a State Party that does not have any properties on the World Heritage List as decided by the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee. He also referred to Article 16.5 of the *World Heritage Convention* that stipulates that those States Parties that are in arrears in paying their contribution to the World Heritage Fund are not eligible to stand for election to the Committee.

183. The Chairperson mentioned that document *WHC-03/14.GA/INF.9A* shows the distribution of World Heritage properties in States Parties, including the list of 48 States Parties with no properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

184. The Director of the World Heritage Centre read the list of eligible candidates to the World Heritage Committee (Algeria, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lithuania, Madagascar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey and Ukraine).

185. The Delegation of Belgium reiterated its request to be informed about which candidates were ready to reduce their term of office if elected.

186. The Delegation of India expressed its disagreement with this request and procedure, stating that candidates would feel obliged to announce the reduction of

their terms of office, and that the notion of “voluntary” was in that case not relevant any more.

187. The Delegation of Lebanon agreed with India on the notion of a voluntary intervention by the candidates to inform the General Assembly about their terms of office, but supported the Delegation of Belgium by stating that this was purely information which was needed for having all the elements that could influence the voting.

188. The Delegation of Saint Lucia agreed with the Delegation of Lebanon.

189. The Delegations of the Dominican Republic, Portugal and New Zealand supported the position taken by the Delegation of India.

190. The Delegations of New Zealand and Norway announced their intention to reduce their term of office from six to four years if elected.

191. The Delegation of South Africa commented that in their experience with the elections to the Committee a similar discussion had never occurred and felt that to request such a statement from the candidates would be to “wring their arm” for a promise and would influence the outcome of the elections.

192. The Delegation of Senegal asked if the Secretariat could not produce a list of States Parties that had already announced their intentions for their terms of office.

193. The Delegation of Zimbabwe inquired about whether there was a right time for a State Party to make such an announcement: prior to the election, in which case, in the Delegation’s opinion, it influenced the vote, or after the election, in which case it could be considered as a voluntary decision.

194. The Delegation of Turkey on a point of order indicated that, some candidates having already announced their intentions, this could be prejudicial to the interests of those who had not done so.

195. The Delegation of Cuba also made a point of order to ask for legal advice concerning the possibility to amend the *Rules of Procedure* and reduce the term of office to four years.

196. The Delegation of Lebanon recalled that the 13th General Assembly invited a voluntary reduction of terms of office in order to improve rotation within the Committee.

197. The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania, after recalling the under-representativity of the African region on the World Heritage List and the need to have a fair regional balance of seats in the Committee, withdrew its candidature.

198. The Delegation of India stressed that although the information on the length of the term of office itself was valuable, it should nevertheless not be considered as the supreme criteria when voting. Providing this information in advance could be

considered a measure of pressure, while the announcement after the election results would be the right time.

199. The Chairperson requested a vote on continuing or ending the debate on this matter. The majority voted to end the debate.

200. The Legal Advisor explained the voting procedures for the election of members of the World Heritage Committee as stated in Rule 13 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly.

201. Representatives of the Delegations of Cambodia (Mr David Meaketh) and the Marshall Islands (Ms Emi Chutaro) were appointed as tellers.

202. The ballot papers for the first reserved seat were distributed.

203. According to Rule 13.1. of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly, the 5 candidates without properties on the World Heritage List would contest the reserved seat: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gabon, Kuwait, Namibia and Togo.

204. The results of the first ballot for the reserved seat of the World Heritage Committee were as follows:

Number of States Parties eligible to vote:	176
Number of States Parties present and voting:	162
Majority required:	82
Number of invalid votes:	1
Number of States Parties absent:	14

Bosnia and Herzegovina (23 votes); Gabon (14 votes); Kuwait (79 votes); Namibia (29 votes); Togo (16 votes).

205. The Chairperson announced that Kuwait had 79 votes, 4 less than the majority required. According to the *Rules of Procedure* voting could proceed by raising hands or by repeating the secret ballot.

206. The Delegation of Gabon announced that it wished to withdraw for this round in support of Togo.

207. The Delegation of Pakistan proposed to vote by raising hands, which was supported by the Delegation of Kazakhstan.

208. The Delegation of Togo announced that it wished to withdraw for this round in support of Kuwait.

209. The Delegations of Jamaica and Romania requested the Chairperson to continue the election by secret ballot.

210. The General Assembly did not agree with the proposal made by the Chairperson to vote by raising hands. The ballot papers were distributed for the

second round for the reserved seat. Two candidates were included on the revised ballot paper: Kuwait and Namibia.

211. The results of the second ballot for the reserved seat of the World Heritage Committee were as follows:

Number of States Parties eligible to vote:	176
Number of States Parties present and voting:	160
Majority required:	81
Number of invalid votes:	2
Number of States Parties absent:	16

Namibia (32 votes); Kuwait (126 votes).

212. The Chairperson declared Kuwait elected.

213. The Delegation of Kuwait expressed its thanks to all States Parties and in particular to Gabon, Togo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Namibia.

214. In accordance with the *Rules of Procedure* the first ballot for the remaining seven seats proceeded. The list of candidates was read to the General Assembly: Algeria, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Togo, Turkey and Ukraine.

215. The Delegation of Gabon announced its withdrawal.

216. The results of the first ballot for the remaining 7 seats for the World Heritage Committee were as follows:

Number of States Parties eligible to vote:	176
Number of States Parties present and voting:	163
Majority required:	82
Number of invalid votes:	2
Number of States Parties absent:	13

Algeria (56 votes), Benin (65 votes), Bosnia and Herzegovina (7 votes), Chile (76 votes), Dominica (10 votes), Dominican Republic (39 votes), Ethiopia (13 votes), Gabon (3 votes), Georgia (13 votes), Japan (95 votes), Kazakhstan (16 votes), Lithuania (82 votes), Madagascar (47 votes), Namibia (13 votes), the Netherlands (96 votes), New Zealand (100 votes), Norway (100 votes), Slovakia (39 votes), Spain (61 votes), Togo (10 votes), Turkey (53 votes) and Ukraine (21 votes).

217. The Chairperson declared Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway elected.

218. The Chairperson was replaced in the Chair by the Vice-Chairperson H.E. Dr Omotosa Eluyemi from Nigeria.

219. The Delegations of Dominica, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ethiopia withdrew their candidatures.
220. The Delegations of Kazakhstan and Georgia announced their countries' withdrawal and supported the candidature of Turkey.
221. The Delegation of Gabon thanked the General Assembly for the votes that it had received but recalled it had withdrawn its country's candidature.
222. The Delegation of Senegal requested the Chairperson to suspend the session in order to allow consultation among electoral groups, which was supported by the Delegations of Saint Lucia, Congo, Angola, Colombia, Mauritania, Algeria, Central Africa Republic and Côte d'Ivoire.
223. The Delegation of Togo withdrew its country's candidature in support of Benin.
224. The session was suspended to allow consultation among electoral groups.
225. The Delegation of the Dominican Republic announced her country's withdrawal in favour of Chile and Benin.
226. The Delegation of Spain announced its country's withdrawal as it considered that Europe was already well represented in the Committee and supported the candidatures from South America and Africa.
227. The Delegation of Ukraine announced its withdrawal.
228. The Delegation of Algeria announced its withdrawal as it considered that the Arab Region was already well represented in the Committee and supported the candidatures from South America and Africa.
229. The Delegations of Kenya and Namibia announced their withdrawal in support of Benin and Chile.
230. The Delegation of Madagascar announced its withdrawal in support of an African candidate.
231. Two seats remained to be filled and a second ballot was organised. The list of remaining candidates was read out to the General Assembly: Slovakia, Turkey, Chile and Benin. Another teller, Ms Adi Meretui Ratunabuabua (Fiji), was appointed as Ms Emi Chutaro (Marshall Islands) was unavailable.

232. The results of the second ballot for the two remaining seats of the World Heritage Committee were as follows:

Number of States Parties eligible to vote:	176
Number of States Parties present and voting:	153
Majority required:	77
Number of invalid votes:	0
Number of States Parties absent:	23

Slovakia (28); Turkey (40); Chile (116); Benin (118).

233. The Chairperson declared Chile and Benin elected, and read out the full list of new members of the World Heritage Committee:

- Kuwait
- Japan
- Lithuania
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Benin
- Chile

234. The Delegation of Benin thanked all those who had supported Benin. He paid special tribute to the collective support of the African group and of the countries of Latin American and Caribbean where the slaves of Africa were sent.

235. The Delegation of Japan expressed its gratitude and said that it would work in a positive and constructive way.

236. The Delegation of Chile said that it was honoured to have been elected to represent the Latin American group and thanked those in that group had withdrawn in favour of Chile. It also thanked the African and Arab groups for their solidarity.

237. The Delegation of Norway expressed its gratitude to all those who had voted for their country. It commented that it was an important day for Norway and the Nordic countries and stressed that Norway would contribute actively to the work of the Committee.

238. The Delegation of New Zealand speaking first in Maori language celebrated its election to the Committee. It gave its commitment to work for increased representativity of the World Heritage List and capacity-building. Under the leadership of Paramount Chief Tumu Te Heuheu the Delegation said that New Zealand would have much to learn and much to share.

239. The Delegation of the Netherlands greeted the General Assembly in several languages. It expressed its appreciation of the value of the *World Heritage Convention* and committed to making a contribution to the protection of World Heritage with a focus on credibility, representativity, local values, traditional management, public awareness and linking culture and nature.

240. The Delegation of Lithuania also thanked the States Parties for their support.

## **RESOLUTION 14 GA 9**

*The General Assembly,*

1. *Elects Kuwait (State Party without properties on the World Heritage List) as a member of the World Heritage Committee,*
2. *Elects the following seven States Parties as members of the World Heritage Committee: Benin, Chile, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway.*

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

241. The General Assembly did not discuss any other business.

## **11. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

242. The Chairperson thanked the Vice-Chairperson, H.E. Dr Omotosa Eluyemi, for chairing in his absence and he congratulated the newly elected States Parties to the World Heritage Committee, by recalling the names of each. Furthermore he acknowledged the spirit of collaboration of the elections and reiterated his thanks to China for the invitation to the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou from 28 June to 7 July 2004.

243. The Director of the World Heritage Centre thanked the General Assembly for its constructive comments and decisions. He recalled the many words of support to the World Heritage Centre and stated that the Committee can count upon a professional and committed team who believe in the values of the *Convention*. He then thanked the Chairperson of the General Assembly who had been a source of inspiration. He expressed the hope that the philosophy and spiritual thoughts expressed by the Chairperson would help to improve the work of the Secretariat. He continued by thanking the Chairperson of the Committee, the Rapporteur of the General Assembly, the interpreters and the tellers as well as colleagues of the Secretariat. He concluded by congratulating the newly elected States Parties and by saying that he was looking forward to working together with the new Committee.

244. The Delegation of South Africa reiterated that, if supported, South Africa would host the World Heritage Committee's session in 2005. The Delegation added that this would be an opportunity to support NEPAD and an occasion to visit Africa in the 21st century.

245. The Chairperson of the General Assembly thanked the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Zhang, and the Secretariat. He expressed his opinion that the link between the General Conference of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee is not very visible. For a flagship programme of UNESCO he considered that having only one report for information in Commission IV is not enough. He concluded by saying that although the General Assembly was independent, he would welcome suggestions for the General Assembly to become more involved in the practice of the General Conference.

246. Mr Zhang, Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, thanked the General Assembly and all representatives of the States Parties. As this was his first General Assembly, he said he was favorably impressed by the spirit of fruitful cooperation and mutual understanding among the States Parties and he praised the coordination work to reach consensus. He said he was convinced that the knowledge society of the 21st century required a better knowledge of today's and yesterday's heritage and referred to the tremendous task ahead. He extended an invitation to the States Parties to attend an Information Meeting to be held in Paris in early 2004 and concluded by inviting everybody to Suzhou.

247. The Chairperson, H.E. Mr A. Jalali, closed the General Assembly by singing a Persian poem.

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**Address by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO at the opening session of the 14th General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*, UNESCO, 14 October 2003**

Mr Chairman of the World Heritage Committee,  
Distinguished members of the World Heritage Committee,  
Mr President,  
Excellencies,  
Honourable Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to open the 14th General Assembly and to welcome the representatives of the 176 States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*.

As you know, the *World Heritage Convention* is at the heart of UNESCO's heritage protection work and is a flagship programme for the Organization. Indeed, it is UNESCO's most successful convention in terms of the number of States Parties. And this success continues to grow – since we met two years ago, when I opened the last General Assembly, membership has increased by the addition of eleven new States Parties to the Convention. I take this opportunity to extend particular greetings and congratulations to Barbados, Bhutan, Eritrea, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kuwait, Liberia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, the Republic of Moldova, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu.

In 2002, taking advantage of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention, the World Heritage Committee developed new strategic objectives for its work. These objectives provided the structure of the new Programme and Budget for the World Heritage, as presented in the 32 C/5 that has been one of the main subjects of discussion during the current General Conference.

The focus of the programme is now upon strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List, ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties, building capacities and, through communication, increasing public awareness of, involvement in and support for World Heritage.

These new strategic objectives, together with the revised Operational Guidelines and the recent clarification of a number of legal issues concerning in-danger listing, will provide a useful, clear framework by which people all around the world can prioritise their efforts for World Heritage conservation.

The 30th anniversary of the Convention also provided a timely opportunity for the assessment of the strengths and future challenges of the World Heritage system. Last November, with the generous support of Italy, an international congress was held in Venice, bringing together hundreds of participants in order to review progress and map the future of World Heritage conservation. This assessment was recently taken further at the 5th World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, where World Heritage took centre-stage as a cross-cutting theme for discussions on Protected Areas.

The work to identify and assess World Heritage continues. Its definition has broadened significantly over the last 10 years, to include cultural landscapes that are recognised as places demonstrating outstanding interactions between people and their environment over time. In addition, our greater understanding and appreciation of the diversity and fragility of heritage have led, in recent years, to a number of major new initiatives by UNESCO in the field of cultural heritage protection and international cooperation.

Two years ago, for example, the General Conference adopted the Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. This important new instrument aims to protect relics of the world's cultural history that lie underwater. In common with land-based cultural heritage, underwater heritage is an integral part of the common heritage of humanity and it deserves similar attention and management. We hope a sufficient number of Member States will soon deposit their instruments of ratification of this Convention so that it can come into force.

Furthermore, it is with tremendous satisfaction that I inform you that Commission IV of UNESCO's General Conference has approved, by acclamation, the text of a new international Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. I am very confident that the draft Convention will also be adopted by acclamation in plenary. As I said in my reply to the general debate in the General Conference, I hope that the new Convention will quickly enter into force as it will promote international efforts to identify and enhance an entire section of the common heritage of humanity that is particularly fragile and endangered. I wish to commend the extraordinary efforts of Member States and their experts for having developed and supported this new Convention, which will fill a large gap in UNESCO's heritage protection scheme. I sincerely hope that it will enjoy the same degree of success as the *World Heritage Convention*!

As you know, we attribute great importance to each of the hundreds of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, as many of you indicated during your interventions in Commission IV, much work remains to be done to make the List more representative of the world's outstanding cultural and biological diversity. Two years ago, at the time of the 13th General Assembly, there were 690 World Heritage sites in 122 countries. By the time of the Committee's meeting in Budapest last year, the number of sites had risen by 40 to 730 and the number of countries represented had increased by 3 (to 125). This year, 24 new sites have been added to the List, which now totals 754, and 4 more countries have gained representation, bringing the total to 129 countries. This means that 47 States Parties to the *Convention* do not have a World Heritage site yet. As you will readily agree, this is a most unsatisfactory situation, one that must be addressed with the utmost vigour and determination.

In this regard, let me draw your attention to three significant considerations. First, much greater emphasis is already being given to an assessment of the gaps in the List. The ongoing and extensive technical assessment for the identification of gaps that is being carried out by IUCN and ICOMOS needs to be completed. This issue, I am sure, will be high on the agenda of the World Heritage Committee in June/July of next year.

Second, the establishment of a World Heritage List that is fully representative of the world's outstanding cultural and natural heritage is not just a conceptual, technical and intellectual issue. It is also a resource issue. I believe that increased resources need to be

identified for those States Parties which require assistance to nominate and protect potential World Heritage sites.

Third, there is a need to develop a new approach to the conservation of sites already on the List. It is time for us to determine the recurrent costs of conserving World Heritage sites. We know that in many cases national resources are simply not enough. Furthermore, the resources of the World Heritage Fund are not sufficient. Mobilisation of additional resources is therefore vital, as is the increased development of the partnership approach.

Before closing, let me thank the 21 members of the World Heritage Committee and the 3 advisory bodies – IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM – for their important work over the last two years. I wish to pay particular tribute to the dedication of the three Chairpersons who have guided the work of the Committee over recent years – Mr Henrik Lilius from Finland, Mr Tamás Fejérdy from Hungary, and Ms. Vera Lacoeuilhe from Saint Lucia. I also congratulate Mr Zhang Xinsheng from China for his election to the Chair of the Committee.

During my time as Chair of the Committee in 1998/1999, one of its main preoccupations was the need for greater geographical representation and rotation in its membership. In this regard, I wish to express my appreciation to all those States Parties who, at the last General Assembly, declared their intention to voluntarily reduce their term of office from 6 to 4 years.

Furthermore, I acknowledge, with appreciation, the decision of Belgium to stand down from the Committee at this General Assembly, after only four years as a member of the Committee. I hope that in future years other States Parties will follow the admirable example of Belgium in providing opportunities to others.

On a final note, let me to wish you every success in your discussions and, for those applying for membership of the World Heritage Committee, I wish you the best of luck!

Thank you.

REMARKS OF H. E. AMBASSADOR A. JALALI

CHAIRPERSON OF THE 14TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE PARTIES TO  
THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION*

14 OCTOBER 2003

His Excellency, Mr ZHANG Xinsheng, Honourable Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee,  
Distinguished Members of the World Heritage Committee,  
Your Excellencies and representatives of the 176 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention,  
Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, ADG for Culture,  
Valued members of the World Heritage Advisory Bodies - IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM,  
Mr Francesco Bandarin, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to share and lead the work of this 14th General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*.

I am coming from a different world - the world of the UNESCO General Conference.

As I really immerse myself in the leading process of a World Heritage meeting for the first time, I would like to give you some of my initial impressions and reactions to this change in scene.

The concept of World Heritage appears thoroughly modern.

It is one of the admirable human ideals to have emerged from our modern world.

I think the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* is one of the significant manifestations where we, the Member States, involved the concept of ethics in a practical legal framework that brings together and absorbs in a multi-faceted way, culture and science, education and communication.

We have a concept that engages grass roots feelings and sentiments. People can tangibly connect to other nations and other peoples around the world. It brings to people what I would call a "civilisational consciousness" where we may admire, cherish and recognize across national boundaries.

Even after 30 years, we are surprised by the imagination and innovation of the *Convention*. Here we have together in one package a reflection and reconciliation between nature and culture, state sovereignty and the obligations of our international community to protect the collective common heritage of humanity.

With the World Heritage flagship, the minds and spirit of people around the world, can connect and become actively involved in understanding the extraordinary voices and messages of our cultures and civilisations.

Here we see international co-operation used as a key force for conservation. The moral and ethical mission, and all that UNESCO stands for, is an impressive foundation for conservation of our World Heritage.

The concept of "conservation" and an attitude and ethic of conservation are effective prerequisites to construct defences for peace and solidarity.

Conservation used in this way will symbolize or reveal to us the need and the possibilities to protect and conserve other aspects of our common cultures and finally discover and unveil a common meaning in our lives.

Furthermore, this *Convention* calls on the collective input of nations around the world. At a practical level our World Heritage sites benefit from financial contributions to the World Heritage Fund and from sharing technical expertise - people in distant lands support those in need. We learn, and learn to learn, from others. We learn what they value and how they value us.

As I conclude, let us thank, and let us be grateful, that the founders of this *Convention* created a legal instrument with such an inspiring spirit that endures, is becoming more visible and relevant, and would perhaps not be easily achievable today.

We have a rather complicated job in front of us, but there is a very capable team from the Secretariat to help us.

Thank you.

**Report of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on the activities of the  
World Heritage Committee**

**Mr Zhang Xinsheng (China)**

**14th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention  
14-15 October 2003**

**SLIDE**

Mr Chairperson,  
Assistant Director-General for Culture at UNESCO, Mr Bouchenaki,  
Distinguished representatives of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*,  
Fellow members of the World Heritage Committee,  
Members of the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, I have the honour and responsibility to report to the General Assembly on the work of the Committee since the last General Assembly in October 2001.

**SLIDE**

My report will cover the main activities and decisions by the Committee since our 13th General Assembly. For this purpose you have before you document 32C/REP/14. This document has been submitted to the General Conference for information.

Let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the three preceding Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee. These Chairpersons led the Committee during an important period of improvement in working methods. They presided over intense discussions on fundamental World Heritage policy issues. They chaired the Committee when the World Heritage community around the world celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our *World Heritage Convention*.

**SLIDE**

In 2001, Mr Henrik Lilius from Finland led the work of the Committee. Mr Lilius's prestigious work included his leadership on important missions to assess the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal and to attend the first ICC- International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage in Kabul.

**SLIDE**

In 2002 the Chairperson from Hungary, Mr Tamás Fejérdy, guided the Committee in the adoption of the 30th Anniversary Budapest Declaration on World Heritage and its associated

Strategic Objectives. Mr Fejérdy also went on mission to Kathmandu Valley, participated with Mr Lilius in a mission to Kizhi Pogost in the Russian Federation and continued to represent the World Heritage Committee at the ICC on Afghanistan.

### **SLIDE**

With the support of the Committee, Ms Vera Lacoeylthe of Saint Lucia stepped into the role of Chairperson in June/July this year. I would like to give my special thanks to Ms Lacoeylthe for her strength and conviction in having chaired the Paris Committee session. It was a long session with a heavy agenda and it was largely thanks to Ms Lacoeylthe's determination that we managed to achieve so much.

### **SLIDE**

I would also like to thank, on your behalf, Mr Francisco Javier Lopez Morales from Mexico, Ms Bénédicte Selfslagh from Belgium and Ms Louise Graham from South Africa who have worked as Rapporteurs with the Secretariat to prepare the reports of the Committee. As many of you know, there have been some significant changes in the preparation of the reports of our World Heritage Committee sessions. Emphasis is now given to the preparation of the Decisions of the Committee. We all hope that this new way of working will bring greater clarity to the decision-making process. Again, I thank our Rapporteurs and the Secretariat for their significant efforts in improving our reporting system. I also wish to encourage Ms Graham from South Africa and the World Heritage Centre to continue to streamline and improve our reporting system.

### **SLIDE**

The membership of the *World Heritage Convention* is now almost universal with a total of 176 States Parties.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate eleven countries who joined the World Heritage family since our last General Assembly in October 2001.

### **SLIDE**

Let us welcome Barbados, Bhutan, Eritrea, Federated States of Micronesia, Kuwait, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu!

### **SLIDE**

Of these 176 States Parties, the 21 members of the World Heritage Committee can be seen on the slide. The seven members of Bureau of the Committee are, in addition to China, Argentina, Nigeria, Oman, Saint Lucia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

### **SLIDE**

The seven members of the Committee who shall be leaving at this General Assembly are Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Zimbabwe. Added

to this list of departing members of the Committee is Belgium who is voluntarily stepping down after only four years on the Committee. This is certainly a generous act by Belgium in the interests of greater rotation and more equitable representation of the World Heritage Committee. Let us express our thanks to these eight countries for their outstanding work on the Committee.

I would now like to turn to the detail of my report on the work of the World Heritage Committee since October 2001.

### **SLIDE**

Under the leadership of Mr Lilius, Mr Fejérdy and Ms Lacoeyllhe and with the involvement of members of the Committee and many States Parties around the world, the Committee has made considerable progress in some key aspects of improvement of working methods and in its discussions of some important legal and policy issues.

To improve its working methods the Committee has revised its *Rules of Procedure*. And, as I mentioned a moment ago a new reporting method was also adopted to give greater prominence to the Decisions taken by the Committee. This will facilitate the follow-up by States Parties, Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat.

### **SLIDE**

A comprehensive study on policy and legal issues concerning inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and deletion from the World Heritage List was presented by the Legal Adviser of UNESCO to the Committee in Budapest in 2002. In March 2003, following additional discussions, the 6th extraordinary session of the Committee agreed to retain the current wording of the *Operational Guidelines* regarding the inclusion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, deletion of properties from the World Heritage List and the process of reactive monitoring.

With this decision the long process of revising the *Operational Guidelines* is now coming to a close. Let us thank the many States Parties who attended drafting group meetings and who submitted written comments at various stages of the review.

The Secretariat, as required by the 27th session of the Committee, is seeking final comments on the revised *Guidelines* by tomorrow, 15 October. To my knowledge a number of very positive and useful comments have been received. In accordance with the decision of the Committee the World Heritage Centre will now work to finalise the *Guidelines* to be issued in March 2004.

### **SLIDE**

One of the highlights of the work of the Committee in the last 2 years was the adoption, on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, of the **Budapest Declaration on World Heritage** and related **Strategic Objectives** known as the “4 Cs”. The objectives are: credibility, conservation, capacity-building and communication in support of World Heritage. Furthermore, the Committee, at its 6th extraordinary session earlier this year, adopted a revised budget structure for the World Heritage Fund, structured to reflect these Strategic Objectives.

## SLIDE

In more detail, the Strategic Objectives are the following:

- (a) strengthen the **credibility** of the World Heritage List;
- (b) ensure the effective **conservation** of World Heritage properties;
- (c) promote the development of effective **capacity-building** in States Parties;
- (d) increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **communication**.

## SLIDE

Implementing these 4 Strategic Objectives to secure their impact in terms of World Heritage conservation will require substantial additional resources to those currently available through the World Heritage Fund and extra-budgetary resources. The **World Heritage Partnerships Initiative** is a tool to mobilize additional financial and technical resources. It was launched on a trial basis at the 30th Anniversary Venice Congress, "Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility" that I will refer to later in my presentation.

New partnerships announced over the past year include a UNESCO-United Nations Foundation -Conservation International agreement worth US\$15 million and a pledge by Fauna and Flora International to cooperate with UNESCO, UNF and other interested partners to build and generate the initial capital to fund a rapid response mechanism to respond to threats to World Heritage natural sites. An agreement with the Grand Circle Foundation, which pledges US \$100,000 per year to selected World Heritage properties over a five-year period, has been finalized. A partnership with Hewlett Packard is under discussion.

New initiatives to better monitor and map World Heritage properties are being developed with the European, Brazilian and Argentinean space agencies, with NASA, and with the Belgian Universities of Ghent and Louvain la Neuve.

## SLIDE

In the past two years, five new bi-lateral agreements with Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and New Zealand have been signed. Another, with the United Kingdom, will be signed by the Director-General tomorrow.

## SLIDE

Furthermore, existing UNESCO-wide agreements, with Belgium, France and Japan, have been used to support World Heritage projects and monitoring activities. Significant earmarked contributions have also been gratefully received from a number of States Parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me continue the remaining part of the report of the Committee according to the four Strategic Objectives.

## SLIDE

The first Strategic Objective is:

## STRENGTHENING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

### SLIDE

As you know, in 1994 the World Heritage Committee adopted a **Global Strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List**. At the time the Global Strategy was initially discussed it was considered that the World Heritage List "should be receptive to the many and varied cultural manifestations of outstanding universal value through which cultures expressed themselves." It was also thought that there should be a "continuous, pragmatic" process of reflection based on systematic reference to the international scientific community. Furthermore it was also considered that work was required to identify the gaps in the List and to organize studies of those gaps.

### SLIDE

In the last 2 years alone, more than 24 studies, workshops and conferences have been carried out with regard to thematic activities under the umbrella of the Global Strategy. These activities relate to potential World Heritage marine properties, cultural landscapes, an IUCN mountain study and a boreal forests' study. Over 30 regional and sub-regional activities, such as analytical studies, training workshops, preparatory assistance and expert meetings were also carried out.

### SLIDE

The Decision taken by the Committee at its 24th session in Cairns 2000 to limit the number of new nominations to be examined each year to 30 was reviewed by the Committee in June/July of this year.

Earlier this year, the Committee decided to keep much of the Cairns Decision in place but decided to set at **40** the annual limit on the number of new nominations it will review. Further review of the Cairns Decision will take place at our next Committee session in China in 2004.

In order to find new ways to achieve a more credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List, the Committee has asked ICOMOS and IUCN to carry out analyses of both the World Heritage List and tentative lists. The Committee received progress reports from ICOMOS and IUCN in June 2002 and looks forward to the presentation of their latest results at the Committee's 28th session in 2004.

### SLIDE

Since the last General Assembly, a total of 64 new properties have been inscribed on the **World Heritage List**. 53 of these are new cultural properties and 11 natural properties.

### SLIDE

Of these 64 properties 31 were from Europe and North America, 12 from Asia and the Pacific, 9 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 7 from Africa and 4 from the Arab States. One transboundary site (Uvs Nuur Basin, Mongolia/Russian Federation) spans the regions of Asia and Europe.

## SLIDE

The total number of properties on the World Heritage List is now 754. 582 are cultural, 149 are natural and 23 are mixed cultural and natural properties.

## SLIDE

These properties are located in 129 States Parties. Here I would like to note that 47 States Parties still do not have properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

## SLIDE

The regional distribution of sites on the World Heritage List is as follows. 60 properties are in Africa, 57 in the Arab States, 147 in Asia and the Pacific, 107 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 383 in Europe and North America.

## SLIDE

As you all know the first step before nominating sites to the World Heritage List is a review at the national level of a country's potential World Heritage sites and the preparation of Tentative Lists. Of the 176 States Parties, 132 States Parties have submitted tentative lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years. The World Heritage Committee gives great importance to the development of Tentative Lists as an assessment and planning tool for the establishment of the World Heritage List.

## SLIDE

Of the 754 sites on the World Heritage List, we now have 35, of which 18 are cultural and 17 are natural, inscribed on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**. These properties are located in 29 States Parties - Africa with 14 properties; the Arab States with 7 properties; Asia and the Pacific with 8 properties; Europe and North America with 3 properties; and Latin America and the Caribbean with 3 properties.

## SLIDE

Since the last General Assembly, the Committee has added 9 properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger and removed 4.

## SLIDE

The 4 properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger are Iguaçu National Park in Brazil, Srebarna Nature Reserve in Bulgaria, Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor in Serbia and Montenegro and Yellowstone in the United States of America.

## SLIDE

Let me now turn to the second Strategic Objective:

## ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

### SLIDE

The Committee has examined nearly **350 state of conservation reports** on World Heritage sites and sites in Danger in the last 2 years. In the slide you can see the regional distribution of these reports. It is clear that additional efforts need to be taken by the States Parties and the Committee itself to ensure the effective protection of World Heritage sites.

### SLIDE

The Committee provided assistance for the preparation of World Heritage nominations of the Minaret of Jam and the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley and the preparation of Afghanistan's tentative list. Both sites were subsequently inscribed on both the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger.

### SLIDE

The Committee has inscribed Ashur (Qala'at at Sherqat) in Iraq on the World Heritage List. UNESCO, through its intersectoral group, is gathering more information on the state of conservation of Ashur and other important cultural heritage sites in Iraq and the Committee has provided assistance to the site.

### SLIDE

In 2003, the World Heritage Committee provided assistance for the protection of Cultural Heritage in the Palestinian Territories.

### SLIDE

Overall, more than **300 international assistance** requests have been financed by the Committee from the World Heritage Fund since October 2001. As you can see from the slide on the screen, nearly 100 States Parties have benefited from this assistance.

### SLIDE

Nearly US\$ 7 million has been provided for the preparation of tentative lists and nominations, for training, technical co-operation, emergency assistance, education and other activities.

### SLIDE

At the most recent session of the Committee, a biennial budget for the World Heritage Fund was adopted. Unfortunately due to a number of reasons, the proposed expenditure has been lowered from US\$ 10,863,745 in 2002-2003 to US\$ 7,248,070 in 2004-2005.

### SLIDE

In response to this worrying situation, the Committee has urged States Parties in arrears to pay their contributions to the World Heritage Fund. The Committee has also urged the Director-

General to encourage States Parties to supplement their contributions to the World Heritage Fund with voluntary contributions.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre is encouraged to develop bilateral agreements with States Parties as well as partnerships with multilateral organisations, the private sector and other actors.

Priority needs to be given to securing additional resources for the reinforcement of the staff of the World Heritage Centre, International Assistance, assistance for in-Danger sites and to ensure sufficient resources for the Advisory Bodies.

I am pleased to note that an additional US\$ 1 million do was proposed by UNESCO's Culture Commission IV last Friday evening. This additional contribution will go some way to addressing the World Heritage Fund budget shortfall.

### **SLIDE**

After having reviewed the **Periodic Report** on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Arab States in 2000, the Committee continued by examining the African Periodic Report in 2001, adopting an action plan in 2002 and examining the Asia-Pacific report in 2003.

Follow-up Programmes, focussing to a large extent on Capacity-Building, have now been approved by the Committee for the Arab States, Africa to complement the Africa 2009 programme (managed jointly by ICCROM, CRATerre-EAG and the World Heritage Centre), Asia and also the Pacific.

### **SLIDE**

In the coming years, the Committee will turn its attention to the Periodic Reports for Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe and North America.

### **SLIDE**

World Heritage was a major cross-cutting theme at the **Fifth World Parks Congress** held in Durban, South Africa from 8 to 17 September 2003. World Heritage marine, tourism and transboundary workshops were organized along with a workshop profiling the pilot projects supported by the United Nations Foundation.

### **SLIDE**

Let me now turn to the third Strategic Objective:

## **PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING IN STATES PARTIES**

### **SLIDE**

A **Global Training Strategy** was adopted by the Committee at its 25th session (Helsinki 2001). In 2002 and 2003 guidelines for organizing World Heritage training activities, capacity-building workshops and publications have been prepared.

### **SLIDE**

Around the world, young people and their teachers are continuing to become involved in **World Heritage education** activities.

5 World Heritage youth forums and workshops took place since November 2001 -in Sweden, Slovakia, the Russian Federation, Oman and Greece.

The World Heritage Education Kit “World Heritage in Young Hands” has now been translated into more than 20 languages and a second edition has been published and is available for sale at all UN bookshops.

### **SLIDE**

The fourth and final Strategic Objective is:

## **INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR WORLD HERITAGE THROUGH COMMUNICATION**

### **SLIDE**

The World Heritage Centre has continued its **awareness-raising** work on behalf of the Committee, with the preparation of exhibitions, a press workshop, contracts with documentary film companies, and the production of a World Heritage calendar.

### **SLIDE**

The Centre also continues to produce a number of useful and attractive **publications**. The *World Heritage Review*, the *World Heritage Newsletter*, a new World Heritage Papers series, the World Heritage Map and Brochure “Our World Heritage” and the World Heritage diary are all important ways to communicate information and news about World Heritage around the world.

### **SLIDE**

2002 was an important year for our *World Heritage Convention*. As I mentioned earlier, to celebrate its **30th Anniversary**, an international Congress “World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility” was held in Venice in November 2002. We thank the Italian Government for its support to this Congress, which gathered more than 600 experts from around the world to discuss the evolution of the *Convention* and to consider its role for the future. The Congress was one of the key events of the UN Year for Cultural Heritage.

### **SLIDE**

Nine workshops were also held throughout Italy before the Venice Congress.

## **SLIDE**

The proceedings of the Venice Congress and the reports of the associated workshops have been published.

## **SLIDE**

More than 30 events and activities such as exhibitions, press conferences and an Internet-based Virtual Congress on World Heritage in the Digital Age, were also organized to mark the 30th anniversary of the *Convention*. The Virtual Congress linked 11 special events around the world including in my own country, China.

## **SLIDE**

I have now come to the end of my presentation summarizing the main activities and decisions of the World Heritage Committee over the last 2 years.

As the recently elected Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, let me now offer a few comments on the year to come.

In the first instance, I wish to welcome you all to the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Suzhou, China from 28 June to 7 July 2004. I hope that you and your colleagues, and perhaps some of your family members, will take the opportunity to visit China and some of our World Heritage sites. We would like to share with you the beauty and history of our sites and introduce you to our culture, traditions and a dynamic China.

Our preparations and planning for a successful session in Suzhou are well under way. In addition, I and my team have begun to work closely with the Secretariat to prepare the agenda of the meeting. We are working to find ways to maximise the use of our time.

We hope that with a longer Committee session, there shall be enough time for debate, a day off in the middle of the session to visit Suzhou and surrounding areas and enough time for the Rapporteur and the Secretariat to complete their report preparation. It is vitally important that we manage the time at our meetings more efficiently in this way.

At the beginning of our session in Suzhou we shall establish a working group to evaluate the Cairns Decision concerning the number of nominations to be examined by the Committee at each session. As the Chairperson of the Committee, I would welcome the comments and suggestions of all States Parties on this and other matters beforehand. I consider it my responsibility -- and honour -- to build consensus in the Committee and among the broader family of World Heritage States Parties.

## **SLIDE**

Following my discussions with the Secretariat, I have decided that we shall have a World Heritage Information Meeting here at UNESCO Headquarters in the first quarter of 2004. We shall fix a definite date and I shall ask the World Heritage Centre to inform you all in advance of the meeting.

At the Information Meeting, I would like to give you an overview of the Suzhou Committee agenda and give you a preview of some of the social and other side events. I think that the Information Meeting will help us all to focus on the key issues to be addressed at Suzhou and start to give us an idea of ways of progressing our discussions toward useful outcomes.

**SLIDE**

In conclusion, let me emphasize that as the Chairperson of the Committee, I would like to give greater encouragement to States Parties to identify and protect World Heritage sites, and to recognize and enhance cultural diversity around the world. As we all know, World Heritage is a flagship of UNESCO. With World Heritage, we are helping to ensure that our cultures and traditions are cherished, that our environment is protected, and that our children - - and grandchildren -- will enjoy this wonderful world in its best possible light. I trust that you will all join me in this important, common cause of ours!

Thank you!

\* \* \*