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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty first Session

Christchurch, New Zealand
23 June – 2 July 2007

Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda: Working methods of the World Heritage Committee

List of Committee's Decisions adopted after the entry in force of the *Operational Guidelines* (2 February 2005) and containing provisions modifying the *Guidelines'* rules

SUMMARY

This information document presents the List of Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee after the entry in force of the *Operational Guidelines* (2 February 2005), whose provisions amend the *Operational Guidelines*.

I. Background

1. The revised text of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* entered in force the 2 February 2005. After this date, at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) and 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), After this date, the World Heritage Committee adopted a number of Decisions, on a variety of issues, whose provisions amended the *Operational Guidelines* and which should therefore be reflected in a revised text of the English and French versions.
2. The list of these Decisions is presented below:

II. Decisions adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005)

- Decision **29 COM 18A**:

“[...]

3. Aware of the need to specify the submission modalities for the nomination of transboundary or transnational serial properties on the World Heritage List,
4. Confirms that, for the purpose of applying paragraph 17 a) of Decision **28 COM 13.1** and paragraph 3 of Decision **7 EXT.COM 4B.1**:
 - a) The States Parties co-authors of a transboundary or transnational serial nomination can choose, amongst themselves and with a common understanding, the State Party which will be bearing this nomination; and
 - b) This nomination can be registered exclusively within the ceiling of the bearing State Party”.

III. Decisions adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006)

- Decision **30 COM 7.2**

“[...]

8. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a revised draft format for Emergency Assistance requests including the requirement to clarify what is the specific serious threat/danger affecting the property, how it might affect its overall outstanding universal value, and how the proposed activity intends to mitigate/prevent it, and submit it to the Committee for examination at its 31st session in 2007;
9. Further requests the Advisory Bodies to take into account the policies proposed in Point III of the working Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7.2* in the elaboration of the criteria for evaluation of International Assistance requests, to be included to the *Operational Guidelines* in its Annex 9”.

- Decision 30 COM 13:

“[...]

13. Decides that additional information requested by the relevant Advisory Bodies on a nomination file, should be sent by the States Parties by **28 February**, as evidenced by the postmark”.

- Decision 30 COM 14A:

“[...]

5. Decides that:

a) Preference will be given to developing countries as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy in the grant of international assistance, as already provided for in paragraph 239(b) of the *Operational Guidelines*;

b) International Assistance will now comprise the following three types:

(i) Emergency Assistance;

(ii) Preparatory Assistance;

(iii) Conservation and Management Assistance (incorporating assistance for training and research, technical cooperation, and promotion and education);

c) There will be no earmarking of funds against the different types of International Assistance, except in the case of Emergency Assistance;

6. Confirms that:

a) Evaluating the impacts of International Assistance activities, such as training, is a key element of a results-based approach to the utilization of the World Heritage Fund. Impact evaluations test the validity of specific approaches to addressing the objectives of the *World Heritage Convention*, help determine what works and what does not work, and are a means to learn about effective interventions;

b) Efforts need to be made to expand and deepen the impact evaluation for International Assistance;

c) These efforts depend on the introduction of a revised Application Form, selection of monitoring indicators and improved reporting procedures, and new database format (see *Document WHC-06/30.COM/14A*, Part II) so that relevant data will be available;

- d) The findings of the impact evaluations should be disseminated to States Parties as a means to increase quality of International Assistance and capacity.
7. Decides that:
- a) Preference for International Assistance should be given to activities that promote a programmatic approach, as a way to maximize effectiveness;
 - b) A new Application Form be developed taking into account the working document and in particular the need to focus on project aims, implementation measures, outcomes, and impacts as measured by indicators. This will be accompanied by written guidelines for distribution to all stakeholders on how to define project objectives, design cost effective and important indicators, and report on outcomes and impacts. This new application form shall be assessed at the 32nd session in 2008;
 - c) A system of monitoring using indicators designed as part of the application process, and supported by field supervision visits whenever possible, shall be adopted. Summaries of outcomes following completion of activities will be required;
 - d) the requests for International Assistance will be evaluated by a panel composed of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee or one vice-Chairperson, representatives of the World Heritage Centre Regional Desks and Advisory Bodies, meeting at least twice a year before action by the Chairperson and Committee;
 - e) The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies shall develop selection criteria (Annex 9 of the *Operational Guidelines*) to use in the evaluation of requests for presentation to the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;
 - f) A new database following the recommendations of the evaluators should be established;
 - g) The new International Assistance system consisting of a new application form, use of indicators and reporting requirements, new database, and Evaluation of Requests panel should go into effect on a pilot basis for two years no later than the 31st session in 2007;
8. Requests the Secretariat, in conformity with the above-mentioned paragraphs 6.a, 6.b, and 6.e, to make the necessary changes in the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Also requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to propose a procedure for periodically updating the *Operational Guidelines* for discussion at the 31st session".