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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 second Session

Quebec City, Canada
2 – 10 July 2008

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Establishment of the World Heritage List
and of the List of World Heritage in Danger**

8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

This document presents the Draft Decision concerning the nomination of **The Work of Vauban, France**, with an additional introductory paragraph in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value recommended for adoption. For ease of reference, the added paragraph is highlighted in yellow.

Decisions required:

The Committee is requested to examine the Draft Decision presented in this Document, and, in accordance with paragraph 153 of the *Operational Guidelines*, take its Decision concerning inscription on the World Heritage List in the following four categories:

- (a) properties which it **inscribes** on the World Heritage List;
- (b) properties which it **decides not to inscribe** on the World Heritage List;
- (c) properties whose consideration is referred;
- (d) properties whose consideration is **deferred**.

Property	The Work of Vauban
Id. N°	1283
State Party	France
Criteria proposed by State Party	(i)(ii)(iv)(vi)

See ICOMOS Evaluation Book, May 2008, page 131.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 8B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-08/32.COM/8B and WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1,*
2. *Inscribes the **Work of Vauban, France**, with the exception of Le Palais, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii), and (iv)**;*
3. *Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:*

The work of Vauban constitutes a major contribution to universal military architecture. It crystallises earlier strategic theories into a rational system of fortifications based on a concrete relationship to territory. It bears witness to the evolution of European fortification in the 17th century and produced models used all over the world up to the mid-19th century, thereby illustrating a significant period of history.

Criterion (i): *Vauban's work bears witness to the peak of classic bastioned fortification, typical of western military architecture of modern times.*

Criterion (ii): *Vauban played a major role in the history of fortification. The imitation of his standard-models of military buildings in Europe and on the American continent, the dissemination in Russian and Turkish of his theoretical thinking along with the use of the forms of his fortification as a model for fortresses in the Far East, bear witness to the universality of his work.*

Criterion (iv): *Vauban's work illustrates a significant period of human history. It is a work of the mind applied to military strategy, architecture and construction, civil engineering, and economic and social organisation.*

Thirteen of the fourteen proposed sites present guarantees of integrity and authenticity, and reflect the various facets of Vauban's work. Their legal protection is satisfactory; the administration by the State and the local authorities provides satisfactory guarantees and responses regarding the natural and tourism risks involved. Pooling experience in the areas of restoration and enhancement of the properties within the Network of Major Vauban Sites has already begun.

4. *Recommends that the State Party:*
 - a) *develop collaboration between the properties notably through the Network of Major Vauban Sites, by exchanging best practices in the areas of maintenance, restoration, use and conservation;*
 - b) *consider the possibility of extending the property to include sites such as:*
 - *the Lille citadel, considered as the most representative of this type;*
 - *a stronghold fully reflecting the reorganisation of an existing fortification and the use of water for defence, such as Le Quesnoy;*
 - *a site outside France.*