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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-fourth session

Brasilia. Brazil
25 July – 3 August 2010

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda: Reflection on the future of the *World Heritage Convention*.

SUMMARY

Draft Decision: 34 COM 12

The World Heritage Convention is fast approaching a number of important milestones, including its 40th anniversary in 2012, the potential inscription of the 1000th property to the World Heritage List, and near universal ratification. In view of this, the World Heritage Committee, at its 32nd Session (Quebec, 2008), decided to initiate a process of reflection on the future of the *World Heritage Convention* (the 'Futures process'). This document outlines the context behind the Futures process, the discussion to date and the next steps in the Futures process, in order to guide the development of the *World Heritage Convention* following its 40th Anniversary in 2012.

I. Background on the process of reflection on the Future of the World Heritage Convention

A. Background

1. The *World Heritage Convention* is fast approaching a number of important milestones, including its 40th anniversary in 2012, the potential inscription of the 1000th property to the World Heritage List, and near universal ratification. In view of this, the World Heritage Committee, at its 32nd Session (Quebec, 2008), decided to initiate a process of reflection on the future of the *World Heritage Convention* (the 'Futures process'). This document outlines the context behind the Futures process, the discussion to date and the next steps in the Futures process, in order to guide the development of the *World Heritage Convention* following its 40th Anniversary in 2012.

B. The context behind the Futures process

2. The *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972* has proved to be a remarkably visionary instrument for safeguarding the world's heritage. The *World Heritage Convention* has been dubbed the flagship programme of UNESCO, setting the standard for conventions, instruments and programs for conservation. The number of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* now numbers 186, making its reach nearly universal. World Heritage designation is recognised globally as a marker of excellence, and has proved to be a useful instrument for concrete action both at the national level and through international cooperation.
3. Significant achievements over the last four decades include the setting of key strategic directions in the form of the 'Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List' and embodied in the "5 Cs" of Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building, Communication, and Communities.
4. Since its inception, however, there have been fundamental changes in the environment within which the *World Heritage Convention* operates, including the growth of global tourism, greater development pressures, increasing interest in and awareness of environmental issues, evolution in the practices and concepts of heritage and the emergence of competitor inventories of exceptional sites. This changing environment means that the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* must also change and adapt if it is to remain sustainable.
5. In addition, the very success of the *World Heritage Convention* has led to an increasing scale and complexity of operations. Recognised challenges in the operation of the *World Heritage Convention* include the need for representative decision making processes and an expert basis for decision making; static resources and growing demands; the need to maintain outstanding standards of conservation; the need for prioritisation based on policy/strategic discussions; the need to clarify the roles of key actors, and the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of processes and secretariat services.
6. None of these challenges are new. In fact, a number have concerned the Committee since its very inception and there have been various attempts to address them. These efforts have met with mixed results. This can be partly attributed to the fact that the decision-making body of the Convention is an expert body, rather than an administrative one. Ultimately, the very challenges facing

the *Convention* make it difficult to oversee and monitor the implementation of decisions made to redress them.

7. There is a clear need to build on the past years of work in addressing the emerging issues resulting from the growing complexity and diversity of the implementation of the *Convention*. Anniversaries tend to produce a reflection on the past and a re-calibration of direction for the future. The 30th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, for instance, was marked by a series of workshops on individual aspects of the *Convention* and culminated in a major conference in Venice (2002) and the Budapest Declaration (WHC26). For the 40th anniversary, the world heritage community is developing a new approach to consider the future of the *Convention*.

II. The Futures process to date

8. The current process of reflection on the Future of the *World Heritage Convention* is designed as an inclusive and transparent process for all States Parties to consider both present and future challenges to the *Convention* and to develop strategies to strengthen the *Convention* during its 5th decade.
9. The charts presented in Annexes 1 set out the timeline, stages completed to date and the outcomes achieved so far in the current process of reflection on the Future of the *World Heritage Convention*.

A. Outcomes of the 17th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

10. The 17th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention met from 23 to 28 October 2009 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The Assembly meets every two years and is mandated under the World Heritage Convention to consider elections to the World Heritage Committee, which implements the *Convention*, and financial contributions. This year, the Assembly also debated a broad policy agenda for the future of the *Convention*, set priorities on this and mandated further work.
11. Forty-two States Parties co-sponsored the resolution on the Future of the *Convention*, which identified the following key priorities and welcomed offers from States Parties in convening expert meetings on:
 - the relationship between the *Convention*, conservation and sustainable development
 - the credibility of the public image of the *Convention*, awareness raising and community involvement in implementation
 - capacity building for States Parties, particularly developing countries and other stakeholders
 - strategic management and the Global Strategy
 - the efficiency and transparency of decision-making of the statutory organs of the *Convention* and
 - working relationships with other relevant Conventions and UNESCO Programmes.
12. The Assembly also mandated further work to orient the *Convention* for the future; identified a need for international cooperation on Tentative Lists; requested a

meeting to strengthen regional centres; and called for an independent evaluation of the implementation of the Global Strategy and the PACT.

13. The Assembly further requested that the views of all States Parties related to the identification of priorities in the Action Plan be solicited by the World Heritage Centre prior to the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee (see below in point II.B).
14. Within the framework of the reflection on the Future of the *Convention*, the Assembly further welcomed the offers of Australia and Bahrain to organize an expert meeting in Bahrain on the decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the World Heritage Convention and to launch consultations on the meeting's scope and agenda for discussion by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010. The recommendations of the consultation meeting gathered in December 2010 in Bahrain are presented below in point II.C.
15. It welcomed also the offer of Brazil to host in 2010 an expert meeting on the relationship between the World Heritage Convention, conservation and sustainable development whose results are presented in document *WHC-10/34.COM/5D* as well as the offer by Australia and Japan to host a meeting on upstream processes to nominations whose results are presented below in point II. D.

B. States Parties' contributions concerning the identification of priorities in the Action Plan

16. Some answers were received and confirmed the existing order of priorities. Nevertheless, one State Party is proposing a reorganized order of priority :
 - a) Link Committee decisions to the **budget**
 - b) Develop a new **Global Strategy** for future inscriptions
 - c) Articulate clearer and more **transparent approaches** to implementation of the *Operational Guidelines* for making decisions
 - d) Investigate means to **increase participation** in the implementation of the *Convention*
 - e) Ensure operation of the WH *Convention* is consistent with **UNESCO's broader objectives** and relevant Conventions
 - f) Provide a work program and adequate resources to develop **Statements of Outstanding Universal Value** for all properties as a matter of urgency
 - g) Review and guide the prioritization of existing **Tentative Lists**
 - h) Investigate more **effective management** of conservation processes
 - i) Provide an annotated list of existing **guidance**, identify gaps and develop guidance
 - j) Explore the possibilities opened by new Category 2 regional centers and by new regional funds for training and **capacity building** activities
 - k) To develop a strategy and action plan to ensure the *Convention*, and its signatory State Parties focuses on its **public image** at both global and site levels build external awareness of World Heritage objectives and work and the relationship with a wider range of heritage values
 - l)

17. Another State Party is proposing the following order of priority:
- i. Explore the possibilities of pilot projects on the relation between conservation and **sustainable development**
 - ii. Explore and institute joint private-public sector **awards and certification practices** to identify best practices linked to clear and consistent indicators
 - iii. Explore the possibilities opened by new category 2 regional centres and by new regional funds for training and **capacity building** activities
 - iv. Explain and distribute the *operational guidelines* widely (not just online) to the concerned stakeholders including property managers
 - v. Investigate more **effective management** of conservation processes (...)
 - vi. Provide an annotated list of existing **guidance**, identify gaps and develop guidance on:
 - Conservation indicators
 - Impact studies
 - Acceptable change from threats such as mining, tourism, infrastructure development and human and natural disasters
 - vii. **Cooperation** between well represented and non/under-represented SPs for the preparation of new nominations and the management of existing properties
 - viii. **Build capacity** / transfer skills (...)
 - ix. Articulate clearer and more **transparent approaches** to implementation of the *Operational guidelines* for making decisions on e.g.:
 - Decisions to inscribe, refer, defer or not inscribe
 - Negative perception of danger listing and how to repackage it in a positive light
 - Delisting
 - Whether and at what level management systems and legal frameworks are required to be in place prior to inscription
 - Elaborating requirements for comparative analysis
 - Whether the Abs and the WH centre in assessing the SoC of a site are required to carry out detailed analysis of the management plans
 - **New point: Effective use of tentative lists for the strategic management / development of nomination**
 - x. Investigate means to **increase participation** in the implementation of the *Convention* other than through the electoral system, including but not limited to increasing the strategic/policy setting role of the General Assembly.
18. Another State Party emphasised the need to introduce additional elements in the Action Plan following this order of priority:
- i. the development of a Global Framework for conservation and sustainable development
 - ii. training and capacity building not only for conservation **but also for community empowerment**

- iii. A study on the effective results of the Global Strategy measuring whether it has become more difficult to inscribe sites in over represented regions and categories than previously;
19. Finally, a State Party is proposing a new topic: “Role of religious communities in the management of World Heritage properties”.
 20. The Assembly called for further discussion on the Futures process at its next meeting in late 2011.

C. Recommendations of the consultation meeting, 16-17 December 2009, Manama, Bahrain

21. At its 17th session (Paris 23-28 October 2009), by its Resolution **17 GA 9**, the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* welcomed the offer of Australia and Bahrain to host an expert meeting in Bahrain on the decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention* to identify opportunities for increasing the efficiency and transparency of these procedures. In mandating the expert meeting, the General Assembly requested the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with these two States Parties, to launch and facilitate consultations on the meeting's scope and agenda for discussion by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010. The consultation meeting in Bahrain in December 2009 fulfilled that request.
22. A consultation meeting on the expert meeting on decision-making procedures in statutory organs of the World Heritage Convention (16 – 17 December 2009, Manama, Bahrain) was organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre with support from the Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of Culture and Information, Culture and National Heritage and the Government of Australia. It provided a fruitful discussion on the scope and agenda of the expert meeting on the procedures, logistics and technological requirements for decision-making within the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention* as requested by the General Assembly by its Resolution **17 GA 9**. The consultation meeting focused on four key issues:
 - a. Decision-making procedures of the *World Heritage Convention*: Challenges, opportunities and priorities
 - b. Objectives and scope of an expert meeting on decision-making procedures of the *World Heritage Convention*
 - c. Agenda and participant selection for the expert meeting
 - d. Drafting of recommendations to the World Heritage Committee regarding the forthcoming expert meeting on decision-making procedures.

The recommendations arising from this discussion are outlined below.

23. The consultation meeting on the workshop on decision-making procedures in statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention* proposes the following recommendations to the World Heritage Committee:
 - a. The expert meeting on the decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention* should be organized in September/October 2010;
 - b. The expert meeting should be open to 25-30 experts and appreciates the offer of the State Party of Bahrain to provide funding to facilitate the participation of least developed countries (LDC);

- c. Participants in the expert meeting should be nominated on the basis of their experience with decision-making processes in statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention*, and other international standard-setting instruments;
- d. An invitation for nominations of a certain number of experts should be sent to the regional groups of UNESCO to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures relevant to the *World Heritage Convention*. It is suggested, that if the number of nominations exceeds the places available per regional group, the best qualified experts shall be selected in consultation by the hosting States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Presidents of the UNESCO regional groups observing a regional and gender balance;
- e. The scope of the expert meeting aims at increasing the efficiency and transparency of the decision-making procedures. It should include inter alia: the responsibilities of statutory organs; options for streamlining procedures of statutory meetings; the conduct of meetings; options for improving the quality of decisions; the nature of meetings of an advisory character and the confidentiality of statutory meetings and documents;
- f. Keynote speeches could be dedicated to:
 - i. The evolution of decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention*, including previously suggested innovations and the status of their implementation,
 - ii. The legal framework of decision-making procedures in statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention*, including the roles and responsibilities of the different statutory organs, their chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and rapporteurs as well as legal mechanisms/constraints to change,
 - iii. A comparison with decision-making procedures in other frameworks and conventions,
 - iv. An external independent analysis of the established decision-making procedures;
- g. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, should prepare the following background documentation for discussion during the expert meeting on the decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention*:
 - i. Mapping of key issues and challenges,
 - ii. Statistical analysis of decision-making by the statutory organs during the last ten years,
 - iii. Mapping of all stakeholders' workload,
 - iv. Distribution of expert and diplomatic members in delegations to the sessions of the statutory organs during the last ten years;
- h. The expert meeting should adopt the following agenda:
 - i. Welcome
 - ii. Context of expert meeting and relationship with the process to reflect on the 'Future of the *World Heritage Convention*'
 - iii. Keynote speeches and presentation of background documentation

- iv. Improving current processes or reengineering decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention*:
 - Responsibilities of statutory organs (roles of different statutory organs and relationships among them)
 - Statutory meetings (frequency, agenda, workload, additional meetings, alternative technologies to face-to-face meetings, time management)
 - Conduct of meetings (order of speakers [Committee Members/State Party Observers/Observers/AdvisoryBodies], role of chairperson, vice-chairpersons and rapporteur, right to speak and vote [nominations/state of conservation], voting)
 - Quality of decision (consistency of decisions between and within sessions, working document needs, awareness of implications of decisions [budget, time and workload])
 - Meetings of advisory character and engagement of external partners to assist decision-making (expert meetings, working groups and consultative bodies, status, integration of recommendations into statutory organ procedures)
 - Confidentiality of statutory meetings and documents (publication of documents, media participation in statutory meetings)
- v. Drafting of Recommendations for discussion during the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee in June/July 2011.
- vi. Closing

24. The entire report of this consultation meeting is available at the following Web-address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/futureoftheconvention/>

D. Key points of discussions and Recommendations of the expert meeting on Upstream Processes to nominations: creative approaches in the nomination process, 27 – 29 April 2010, Phuket, Thailand

25. An expert meeting on Upstream Processes to Nominations: Creative approaches in the nomination process (27 – 29 April 2010, Phuket, Thailand) was organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Bangkok Office with support from the Foreign Ministry of Japan and the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of Thailand on behalf of the Royal Government of Thailand. This expert meeting provided the opportunity for a broad ranging discussion on creative approaches to reduce the number of properties that experience significant problems in the nomination process. This

document provides a summary of the discussions and recommendations from the expert meeting.

26. Based upon these and other inputs, and discussions that took place, the expert meeting identified a number of key challenges:

- a. *Too great a focus upon World Heritage above other means to recognise and protect heritage* – Articles 5 and 12 of the *Convention* sets a broad aspiration to protect the world's heritage – not just World Heritage – and there are international, regional and national options beyond World Heritage to protect and conserve heritage. These may all assist in ensuring a balanced approach to mechanisms to protect the world's heritage.
- b. *Complexity of the World Heritage system* – underpinning most other challenges is the reality that World Heritage processes are complex and difficult to readily understand. Every effort should be made to simplify/rationalise the system, in a manner that preserves its emphasis upon quality and credibility; there may also be ways to enhance communication about how the system operates; and efforts need to be made to better capture and record institutional knowledge.
- c. *Role of tentative lists* – while tentative lists are an important part of the process required before submission of a nomination, they also play a variety of other separate but mutually compatible roles; processes related to tentative lists could be refined to provide States Parties with opportunities for further guidance particularly by Advisory Bodies and by the World Heritage Centre, and there remain benefits to be derived from harmonisation.
- d. *Comparative analyses* – comparative analyses are one of the most common challenges facing States Parties in preparing nominations, and better guidance may be helpful.
- e. *Thematic studies* – thematic studies may assist in the development of nominations and the undertaking of comparative analyses. The potential number of thematic studies is considerable, and it remains a challenge to produce thematic studies in a context of limited resources, tight timelines, and where priorities for thematic studies remain to be systematically determined including in relation to the Global Strategy.
- f. *Capacity building* – there are options to improve capacity within States Parties at all levels, including in local communities, to best ensure the protection of World Heritage and to develop successful nominations.
- g. *Managing expectations* – while the core aim of the *Convention* is the protection and conservation of World Heritage, national stakeholders may consider that inscription of a property is the focus. It is important to reiterate that inscription is a means to an end, but does not of itself protect heritage.

Possible solutions

27. The expert meeting identified possible options to address each of these challenges. Some of these solutions can be implemented relatively easily; others require more detailed thought; and several would demand additional resources. The expert meeting also identified that some could be implemented by States

Parties, individually or regionally, while others required the involvement of the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, category 2 centres, and/or other institutions.

28. Creative options to improve upstream processes were identified, related to the ability to refine and augment the provision of advice and feedback to States Parties. These options include:
- a. Exploring ways to offer, on a voluntary basis, assistance to States Parties by enabling the Advisory Bodies to provide advice upon the prioritisation of possible nominations of properties included on a State Party's tentative List
 - b. Draft Nomination
 - i. Augmenting the annual informal review of nominations (the '30 September check') undertaken by the World Heritage Centre by involving the Advisory Bodies, to ensure more substantive feedback to States Parties. This feedback could, for example, pay particular attention to challenging areas such as comparative analyses
 - ii. Considering the introduction of an option for States Parties to undertake, on a voluntary basis, an early-stage process (perhaps in the form of a 'draft nomination' to be considered months or even a year or two before the annual 30 September informal review of nominations) which would enable the provision of detailed advice and feedback from the Advisory Bodies
 - iii. Additional consideration by the World Heritage Committee of draft nominations, perhaps in combination with other reforms to Committee processes (such as the notion of having the Committee consider, in alternate years, nominations and state of conservation issues or of holding the World Heritage Committee twice a year or of determining Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity first, with other elements determined at a later Committee session).
 - c. Exploring ways to ensure that the provision of international assistance more frequently results in the successful nomination and protection of properties.
29. These ideas can be explored individually or in combination. Refinements to each idea are also possible. The expert meeting felt that while such ideas offer considerable potential to assist States Parties, they also pose procedural, resourcing and other challenges, and so require further consideration. Any assessment of feasibility would need to take into account issues such as cost, timeliness, practicability and net benefit to States Parties.
30. The expert meeting considered that the World Heritage Centre should work with the Advisory Bodies to undertake further consideration of these ideas, with a view to identifying the most promising options. These options could then be tested with one or more States Parties, on a voluntary basis, with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies keeping the Committee informed of their evolving work.
31. The expert meeting also considered these ideas could be considered by any consultative group that may be established at the 34th session of the World

Heritage Committee to continue the process of reflection on the Future of the *World Heritage Convention*.

32. In addition to these ideas, the expert meeting held a rich discussion on the processes of Referral and Deferral (paras 159 and 160 of the *Operational Guidelines*).
33. The expert meeting considered that Referral and Deferral should be viewed as constructive options that can assist States Parties to develop nominations that can be successfully inscribed. It was noted that a decision to Refer a nomination, in the situation where the nomination may need more time and work and would require additional on-site evaluation, may be a 'poisoned gift' which can needlessly limit the options available to a State Party to refine its nomination, including with the assistance of the Advisory Bodies. Further clarity on the Referral and Deferral processes, and their implications, may assist in having the benefits of these options, and the differences between them, more widely appreciated.
34. The *Operational Guidelines* currently permit States Parties to withdraw a nomination at any time prior to the Committee session at which it is scheduled to be examined (para 152)-
35. In addition, the expert meeting noted that it may be possible to contemplate a further option, which would enable States Parties to put a nomination on hold for a period of time. This possibility could provide additional flexibility for States Parties – but it would need to be carefully evaluated. For example, if changes were to be made to a nomination during the period in which it was on hold, then it may be necessary to determine whether the nomination would need to return to a previous stage in the evaluation process. The expert meeting noted that this option warranted further detailed analysis before it was contemplated for introduction.
36. The expert meeting noted that there is currently ambiguity in the *Operational Guidelines* in relation to when a State Party should submit a property for inclusion on its tentative List. To remove doubt, the expert meeting considered that the word "preferably" in paragraph 65 of the *Operational Guidelines* be deleted.
37. Annex IV of the Final Report of the expert meeting on Upstream Processes to nominations: creative approaches in the nomination process (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/futureoftheconvention/>) contains a table of the possible solutions developed by the expert meeting.
38. The expert meeting agreed to the **following recommendations** for placing before, as appropriate, the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies:
 - a. That actions already underway to improve upstream processes be continued, including further review and definition of challenges to assist better targeting of action
 - b. That those possible solutions to enhance the provision of advice and feedback to States Parties which entail minimal costs and which can be done within the present system, be agreed by the World Heritage Committee for immediate implementation
 - c. That other possible solutions with more significant cost implications, and which may require refinements to current processes, be subjected to further analysis and considered by the World Heritage Committee for implementation as appropriate

- d. That the World Heritage Centre work with the Advisory Bodies to undertake further work on the feasibility of strengthening of existing approaches to enhance the provision of advice and feedback to States Parties, including through undertaking, subject to funding, a voluntary pilot with one or more States Parties; and the possible consideration of the draft tentative List and/or nominations by the World Heritage Committee, upstream of their formal submission
 - e. That the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies keep the World Heritage Committee informed of their work on options and pilot studies to test them
 - f. That these creative options, and work underway to further consider them, be brought to the attention of any consultative group that may be established at the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee to continue the process of reflection on the Future of the *World Heritage Convention*
 - g. That the World Heritage Committee continue reflection upon ways to use the Referral and Deferral processes and the mechanism for State Parties to withdraw nominations from consideration as part of the suite of upstream mechanisms that can contribute to successful inscriptions, possibly augmented by additional options such as the possibility of a State Party to place a nomination on hold
 - h. That the word “preferably” in paragraph 65 of the *Operational Guidelines* be deleted.
39. The entire report of this Expert meeting is available at the following Web-address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/futureoftheconvention/>

III. Next steps in the Futures process

- 40. The Futures process is focused on preparing for the 40th anniversary of the Convention in 2012. There are therefore a number of key stages in the process that have yet to occur.
- 41. To date, the Futures process has involved all members of the World Heritage community in the identification of issues and the prioritization of those issues for the coming decade. It has identified a small number of issues requiring immediate action in the three years leading to the 40th anniversary and States Parties have taken the initiative in offering to host expert meetings to develop creative solutions to some of these issues.
- 42. Between 2010 and 2012 there will be a number of expert meetings on the identified priorities of the World Heritage Committee, notably:
 - o decision-making procedures of statutory organs (Bahrain and Australia)
- 43. The General Assembly has also called for international cooperation on Tentative Lists, a meeting to strengthen regional centres and an independent evaluation of the implementation of the Global Strategy and the PACT.
- 44. Participants in the process of reflection on the Future of the World Heritage Convention have also identified the core ‘architecture’ needed to orient the implementation of the Convention for the next decade. This ‘architecture’ includes:

- a. A Vision statement: a clear and inspirational statement of the aspirations the World Heritage community has for the future if we successfully identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations the cultural and natural heritage referred to in the Convention
 - b. A Strategic Action Plan with a 10 year outlook: a clearly defined plan of action to help us achieve our vision
45. The 17th Session of the General Assembly of States Parties and the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee have also mandated further work on the following in the lead up to the 40th Anniversary in 2012:

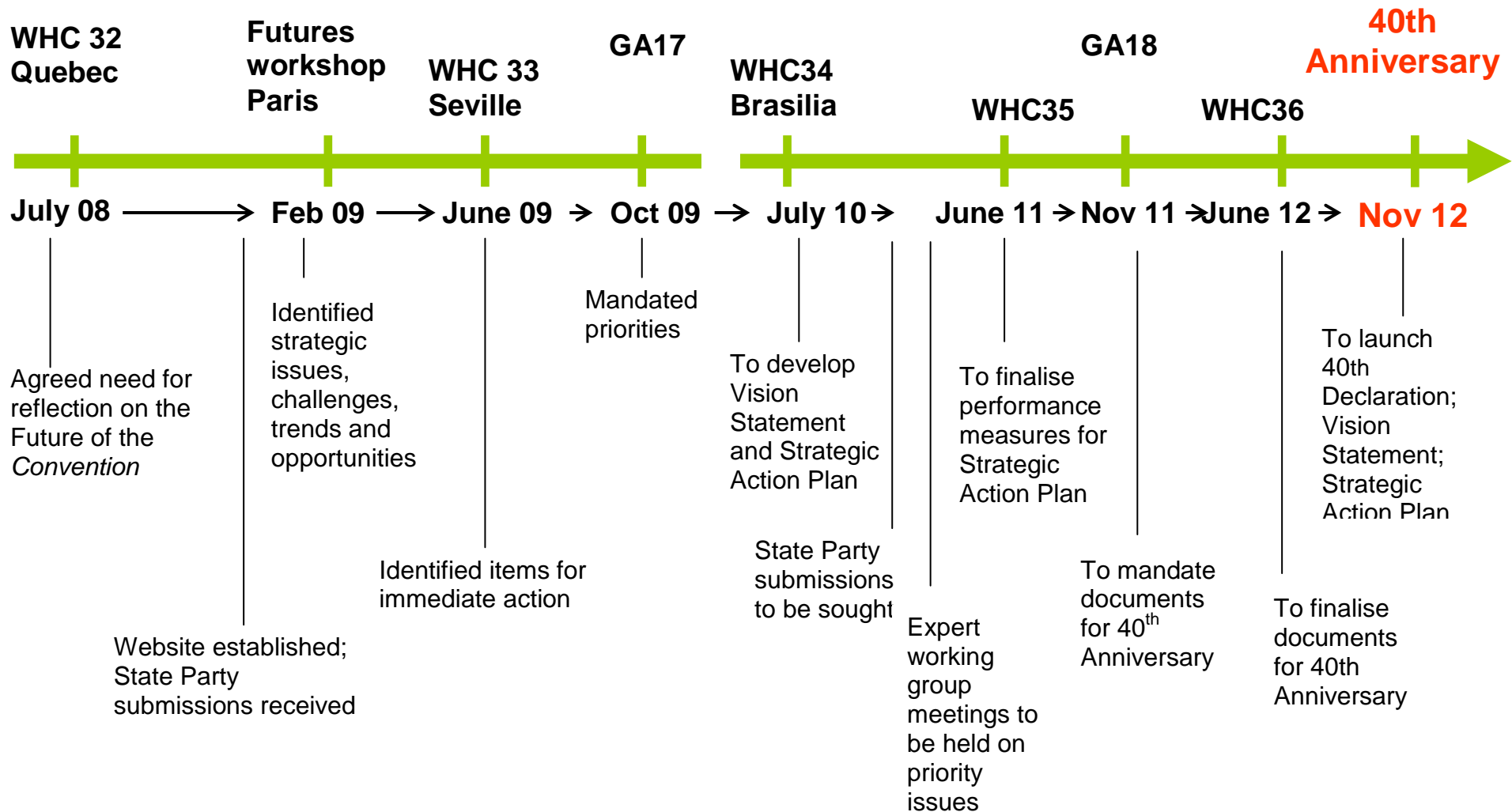
IV. Draft Decision

Draft Decision 34 COM 12A

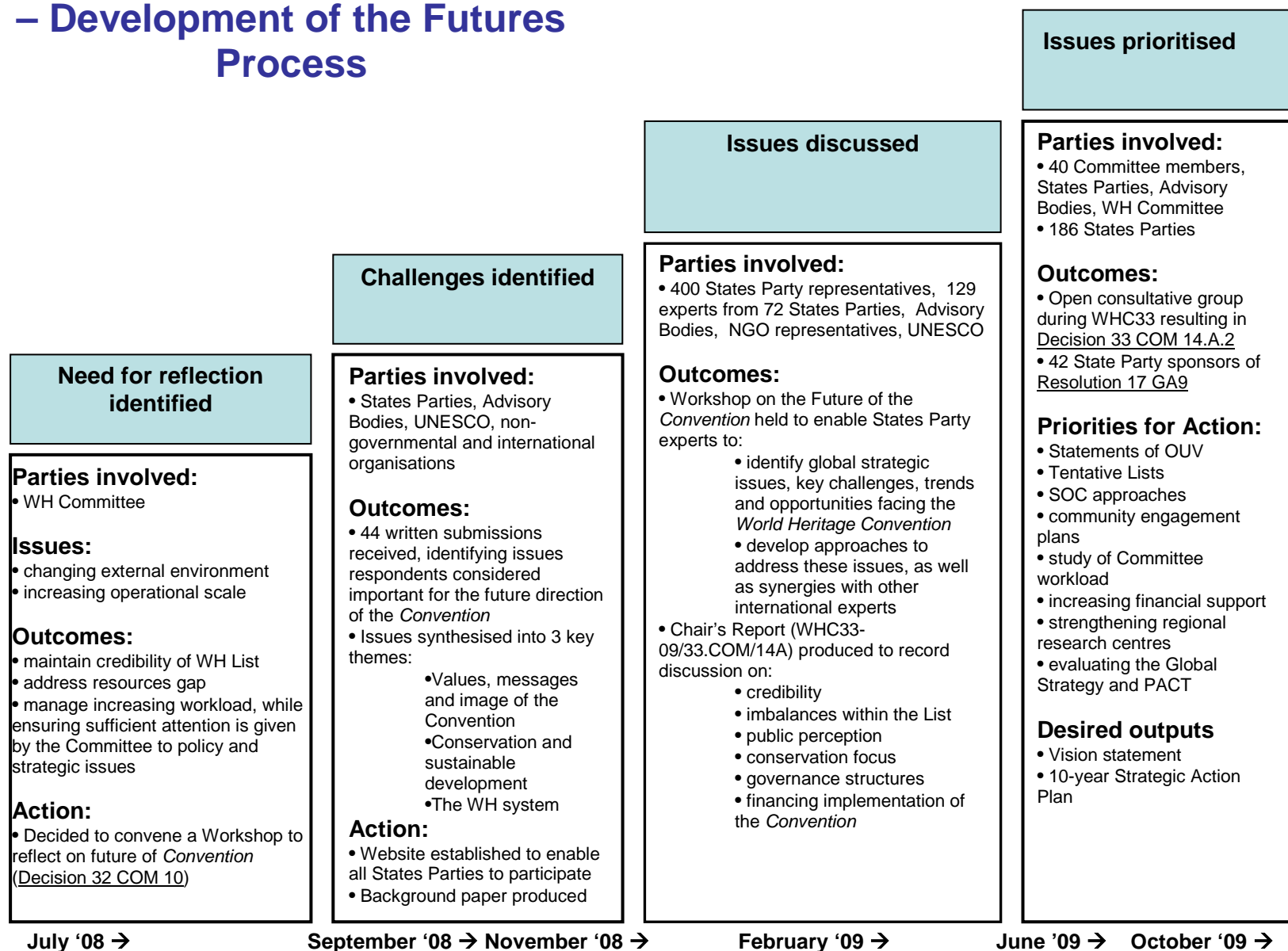
The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/12A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 33COM 14A.2 (Seville, 2009) and Resolution 17 GA 9 taken at the 17th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (Paris, October 2009),*
3. *Expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Japan, Switzerland, and Thailand for the financial and technical support to the various international Expert meetings held in 2009 and 2010 which have contributed to the reflection on the future of the Convention;*
4. *Decides to create a Working Group on the Reflection on the Future of the World Heritage Convention as a Consultative as per the Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee which will report back to the Committee at the end of the 34th session.*

Futures process timeline



Steps to 40th Anniversary (2012) – Development of the Futures Process



Ongoing Work Mandated by Decision 33 Com 14.A.2 and Resolution 17 GA 9

