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# World Heritage

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

**World Heritage Committee**

**Thirty-fifth session**

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters**

**19-29 June 2011**

**Item 10B of the Provisional Agenda: Progress Report on the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting and launching of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean**

## **SUMMARY**

This document contains a summary of the activities undertaken for the follow-up to the First Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and provides information on the proposed strategy for the implementation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

The internet platform designed for the implementation and follow-up of the Second Cycle is available at the following web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/363/>

**Draft Decision: 35 COM 10.B Section III**

## **I. Background**

1. In accordance with Decisions **28 COM 16** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), **7 EXT.COM 5E** adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004) and **29 COM 5** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Centre has continued the follow-up of the First Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise.
2. Subsequent to the meetings in Barbados (May 2006), Mexico (November 2006) and Chile (March 2007), and meetings for the follow-up to the Periodic Reporting and the implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean, the World Heritage Centre started organizing the calendar of activities to continue the follow-up process of the Periodic Reporting exercise.
3. At its 32nd session in 2008, the World Heritage Committee launched the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting, starting with the Arab States Region. The Latin America and the Caribbean Region will deal with this exercise in the biennium 2011-2013.
4. In 2007, the World Heritage Committee (Decision **31 COM 11D.1**, paragraph 7) requested that the missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value be drafted and approved for all World Heritage properties, region by region, before launching the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. In the Latin America and the Caribbean Region this implies that a total of 116 draft Statements should be submitted by States Parties by July 2010 at the latest, in order to be approved by the World Heritage Committee in July 2011 during its 35th session. The World Heritage Centre started the process in November 2009 in order to fulfil the Committee's request.

## **II. Follow up to the first cycle of Periodic Reporting**

5. The activities undertaken have been planned according to the regional programme adopted by the World Heritage Committee and taking into account the comments and recommendations of the Latin America and the Caribbean States Parties. The results from the two follow-up meetings in Mexico and Chile have also been used as a planning tool in support of the strategic objectives of the *World Heritage Convention*.

The main activities requested by the States Parties included: a wider diffusion and training on the implementation of the *Convention*; the inclusion of World Heritage issues in the political agendas of the Region; promotion of the participation of all stakeholders concerned in the identification, nomination and management of World Heritage properties through participatory processes; the use of case studies as examples for future nominations (e.g. Andean Road System/*Qhapaq Ñan*); creation of a database including the names of focal points and site managers in charge of heritage management in each country; the creation of thematic working groups to provide discussion forums on specialized heritage issues; the creation of an internet communication network amongst the States Parties which could be coordinated by the World Heritage Centre. Other activities included the creation of workshops for the update, elaboration and harmonization of Tentative Lists; the evaluation of current management policies; the use of successful participatory processes for the identification of good practices; the identification of mechanisms for the

measurement of management effectiveness; training on the elaboration of a Public Use Plan for World Heritage related issues among others.

6. In relation to the draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, the World Heritage Centre took the appropriate measures for coordinating the drafting process with the States Parties in preparation for their submission to the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee. By March 2011 the World Heritage Centre had received a total of 95 (82%) Statements, 82 of them are considered "Complete" and have been sent to the Advisory Bodies for their evaluation.

According to Decision **34 COM 8E**, considering the high number of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value to be examined, the Committee considered that the order in which they will be reviewed will follow the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, namely: World Heritage properties in the Arab States; World Heritage properties in Africa; World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific; World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean; World Heritage properties in Europe and North America. With this new schedule, retrospective Statements for the Latin America and Caribbean Region would not be fully reviewed for the 35th session as foreseen.

Taking into account the efforts made by the States Parties in the Region to finalize the drafting of the retrospective Statements as established in the calendar, the World Heritage Centre requested the Advisory Bodies to review the draft statements for the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee. After a negotiation with the Advisory Bodies a list of priorities was established. It was agreed that the Statements of properties included on the Danger List and those that could have important issues to be discussed during the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee, would be evaluated as a priority (8 in total, 4 natural properties and 4 cultural). The remaining statements would be reviewed at its 36th session.

### **III. Progress in the Latin America and Caribbean Region**

#### **Credibility**

7. The nomination process of the Andean Road System/*Qhapaq Ñan* to the World Heritage List has continued being implemented successfully. Meetings for the finalization of the nomination file related to different fields: management, legal issues, Technical Secretary, and others have been held in the countries involved and at UNESCO Headquarters. The States Parties concerned have ratified their commitment for displaying a collective effort to preserve the Andean Road System/*Qhapaq Ñan* for future generations during the Heads of States and Governments Summit of Mar del Plata (Argentina, 3-4 December 2010). The Director-General of UNESCO attended the Summit.
8. The meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) of the Slave Route Project (SRP) met in Bogota, Colombia, from 28 February to 2 March 2011. The organization of the meeting was supported by the Colombian Government. During the meeting, the 2009-2010 Activities Report was submitted which included the new strategic direction for the Project, its implementation, the various initiatives for awareness-raising, commemorations, the Project of Atlas of Interactions, the Inventory of Sites and Places of Memory and the DVD Slave Routes: a Global Vision and Pedagogical Initiatives. Presentations were made on the 2011 International Year for People of African Descent, the Memorial to honour victims of the slave trade and of slavery, and the Bicentenary of Independence of Latin American countries. The

members of the ISC also travelled to Cartagena and met with academics and various community associations.

Various regional activities were launched in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in September and October 2010, such as the international seminar *The Slave Route: Traces and Legacies of Slavery in the Americas*. Other meetings and conferences were held in Argentina (November 2010) and Ecuador (October 2010). A Regional Project on the Slave Route in the Rio de la Plata is planned, and an international seminar was held in October 2009 in Buenos Aires on the *Slave Route in the Rio de la Plata*. Implementation for this Project has been ongoing since March 2010. [www.unesco.org.uy/cultura/es/areas-de-trabajo/cultura/proyectos-destacados/rutadelesclavo.html](http://www.unesco.org.uy/cultura/es/areas-de-trabajo/cultura/proyectos-destacados/rutadelesclavo.html)

For 2011, activities have been scheduled for Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala and Curacao, and are being implemented in conjunction with the SRP, various Regional Offices and National Commissions.

9. In terms of Credibility and through International Assistance requests, the World Heritage Centre has coordinated with the States Parties Preparatory Assistance requests for the creation of a more balanced and representative World Heritage List. The approved requests include: The elaboration of the Comparative Analysis of Seaflower Marine Protected Area (Colombia) and the "Preparation of the Tentative List of natural and cultural properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List" (St Vincent and the Grenadines).
10. With the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage, three States Parties (Guatemala, Paraguay and Uruguay) underwent the process of updating their Tentative List.
11. The process for the elaboration of the Comparative Analysis of the Chinchorro Culture (Chile) and the Archaeological site Delta del Diquis (Costa Rica) have been included in the upstream process prior to nominations by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

### **Conservation**

12. A number of specific conservation projects within the Region have been undertaken mostly through funding provided by extra-budgetary resources. Projects carried out include: a) Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid (Bolivia) – Japanese Funds-in-Trust; b) Support to implement the Emergency Plan of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) and analyse the effectiveness of the current management system in order to preserve its natural and cultural values – Spanish Funds-in-Trust; c) Preparation of the Project of the Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul (Mexico) – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development.
13. The project "Promoting Conservation through Sustainable Local Tourism Development at World Heritage Sites: Demand-Driven Assessments and Engaging the Private Sector" has funded the following activities in Belize: a) Belize Coastal Zone Plan; b) Participatory Public Resource and Use Plan for Half Moon Caye and Blue Hole Natural Monuments; and c) The organization of small-group training sessions on public use for Belize oriented to decision makers and protected area site management staff.

14. Post disaster assistance has also been provided in several cases, most of them through the International Assistance scheme, some projects continue to be implemented while other have been approved recently: a) The recovery of the Historic Urban Centre of the City of Camaguey and the Valley of Viñales in Cuba, from the damage occasioned as a consequence of the hurricanes 'Gustav' and 'Ike'; b) Urgent works at la Matriz Church and three other buildings in the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) seriously damaged by the 8.8 magnitude earthquake which occurred in Chile on 27 February 2010; c) Archaeological Park and Ruins of Quiriguá - protection and cleaning (Guatemala); d) Follow-up process of the emergency expert mission to assess the damages and the structural risk at the Citadel of the National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti); e) Cooperation for undertaking the inventory of the vernacular gingerbread houses in Jacmel Historic Centre (Haiti) - Spanish Funds-in-Trust and other cooperation agencies; and f) Preservation of the Cerro Rico Mountain in the World Heritage property, City of Potosí (Bolivia).
15. Other conservation projects under development and financed by International Assistance Funds include: a) Urgent support to establish an adequate waste treatment system and coast guard training in waste management for the prevention of the arrival of invasive species to Malpelo (Colombia); b) Update of the Management Plan of Peninsula Valdés (Argentina); and c) Conservation and restoration of the mural paintings and stone decorated facade of the Deans House in Puebla (Mexico).

### **Capacity Building**

16. In relation with "Capacity-Building", the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme (CCBP) was endorsed by the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou 2004, Decision **28 COM 16**) as part of the "Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2004-2014". The CCBP is coordinated and promoted by UNESCO Havana Office and works in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and other important partners. As part of ongoing support for the implementation of the CCBP, the University of the Netherlands Antilles (Curacao) will in March and April 2011 host the *Caribbean Heritage Course*, covering Module 1 – *Application of the World Heritage Convention* and Module 5 – *Management of Historic Centres*. The *Caribbean Heritage Course* will be funded by the UNESCO Netherlands-Funds-In-Trust as well as other private sector partners.
17. The creation of two Category 2 Centres in the Region, Zacatecas (Mexico) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) was approved on 5 October 2009 by the UNESCO 35th General Conference (**35 C/20 Part VI and XX**). Both Centres have been established with the aim of assisting and supporting the Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of World Heritage policies, especially through training and capacity building initiatives. Both Centres have played an important supporting role in the preparation of the workshops for the Periodic Reporting exercise; one in Zacatecas (6-10 September 2010) and another one in Rio de Janeiro (24-28 November 2010). The Category 2 Centres will also play a fundamental role in the implementation of the process. The programme for the next biennium 2012-2013 is being prepared.

### **Communication**

18. In terms of communication and information, the World Heritage Centre's Latin America and Caribbean Unit is actively working in the Organization of the Donors

Conference for Haiti (19 April 2011), the preparation of a communication strategy and an Technical Action Plan. Coordination efforts are being undertaken with States Parties, Agencies of Cooperation, Development Banks, UNESCO's Culture, Education and External Relations sectors.

19. The development of an Internet and Intranet website (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/363>) for the follow-up of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise is under preparation. The objective of the website is to provide a discussion and exchange platform among the members of the thematic groups (focal points and site managers) and other members of the World Heritage community (National Authorities, Category 2 Centres for the Region, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre). It will also include a repository of documents and information on past, ongoing and future meetings. The videos of previous meetings will be included as a training tool.

The thematic groups section includes a general analysis of the situation in the Region. The thematic groups respond to the characteristics of World Heritage properties in each sub-region and have been structured as follows: a) Mexico and Central America – Cultural itineraries, Maya sites, Monuments, Natural Heritage and Historic Centres; b) South America – Archaeological sites, Historic Centres, Missions, risk management and mixed properties; c) Caribbean - Slave Route, Cultural Landscapes, Risk Preparedness, and a Marine Programme and Sub Regional Cooperation for World Heritage natural sites.

A repository section has been included and contains all documents related to the Periodic Reporting starting from the first cycle until today. The repository section includes information on the Tentative Lists and advances on the draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value. A link to the Periodic Reporting questionnaires, guidelines and a Frequently Asked Questions section will be incorporated. The website will also include a capacity building section for Latin America and the Caribbean where training activities can be organized and shared.

#### **IV. Preparation of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting**

20. In order to speed up the Periodic Reporting process and provide the States Parties with a solid technical and institutional exchange platform for the following years, a preparation process has been implemented with the aim of reinforcing the capacities of Latin America and the Caribbean States Parties. A close collaboration has been established in order to accomplish the objectives of the Retrospective Inventory and to contribute to the official presentation of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in the framework of the Periodic Reporting.
21. The World Heritage Centre has received funding support from the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage, and other funding sources have been explored to secure the implementation of the process.
22. The questionnaire (Forms I and II) has been translated into Portuguese and Spanish, as requested by the States Parties of the Region. The official submission of documents will be done in one of the working languages of the *World Heritage Convention*.
23. A series of documents have been produced during previous meetings and were used as the starting points for the debates and discussions held during the Periodic

Reporting preparatory process (All these documents can be found at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/es/actividades/644/>).

- Action Plan for Tentative Lists, San José (2004-2014)
- Caribbean Action Plan, Castries (2004-2014)
- Caribbean Training Needs Survey
- Meeting for the Implementation of the Caribbean Action Plan, Kingston (2004)
- Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, Cartagena (2004-2014)
- World Heritage Papers N° 14, Archaeology in the Caribbean
- World Heritage Papers N° 18, Periodic Reporting First Cycle
- World Heritage Papers N° 24, Rock Art in the Caribbean
- Recommendations of The Expert Meeting on Outstanding Universal Value, Authenticity and Integrity in the Caribbean Context (May 2006)
- Follow-up of the Periodic Reporting exercise, Mexico meeting (Nov 2006)
- Follow-up of the Periodic Reporting exercise, Chile meeting (March 2007)
- Report on the Periodic Reporting Sub-regional meeting in Zacatecas (September 2010)
- Report on the Periodic Reporting Sub-regional meeting in Rio de Janeiro (December 2010).

24. The first meeting of the preparatory process was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 26-28 November 2009, and included the participation of 46 representatives from 24 countries in the Region in addition to the Advisory Bodies. For three days, focal points of the Latin America and Caribbean Region were informed of the process leading to the preparation of the Retrospective Inventory, the Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and the Periodic Reporting process. The calendar of activities for the Region was approved during the meeting.

25. The calendar included two cycles of sub-regional meetings which have as their primary objective, the training and briefing of representatives (focal points, site managers and National Authorities) from all the States Parties of the Region on the activities related to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, which are: Analysis of all retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value which have been submitted; the decisions of the World Heritage Committee concerning policies affecting the Latin America and Caribbean Region; the preparation of guidelines for advances made in the Retrospective Inventory process; the training of participants in the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire (Sections I and II) and the establishment of thematic discussion groups.

26. Field Offices in the Region have assigned funds for the organization of these meetings (La Havana, Lima and Quito). The World Heritage Centre is working closely with them in the framework of the 35/C5.

27. The first of the three sub-regional meetings for Mexico and Central America was held in Zacatecas (Mexico) from 6-10 September 2010 at the *Antiguo Convento Franciscano de Propaganda Fide* (Old Franciscan Convent for the propagation of the Faith), currently the Museum of Guadalupe, which coincided with the inauguration of the World Heritage Category 2 Centre at Zacatecas, approved at the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2009.

There were 80 participants from seven countries, including staff of the Category 2 Centre in Zacatecas. Representatives of heritage institutions from Cuba and the Dominican Republic participated as observers. Mexican Authorities in charge of

heritage protection such as the National Council for Culture and Arts (CONACULTA), the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), the National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA), and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) also took part. The three-day meeting was organized by the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the Category 2 Centre of Zacatecas, INAH and CONANP.

28. The second sub-regional meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), from 7 to 10 December 2010, at the Gustavo Capanema Palace. The first day was devoted to retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, with the managers of the Brazilian sites. The following days were spent on the Periodic Reporting exercise, where national focal points and site managers of South America took part.

One hundred and twenty participants from 10 countries attended, including national focal points, site managers and Brazilian Authorities in charge of the protection of World Heritage, representatives of the Category 2 Centre in Rio de Janeiro and Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, and ICCROM). The four-day meeting was organized by the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit in cooperation with the Category 2 Centre of Rio de Janeiro, the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) and the international Social Institute Chico Mendes.

29. The third sub-regional meeting of the first cycle was held in Bridgetown (Barbados) from 6 to 8 April, 2011. The meeting reviewed the level of progress reached in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean for 2004-2013 with the purpose of identifying the areas which will require attention in the future. The implementation of the programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was also discussed together with the feasibility of establishing a World Heritage Fund for the Caribbean; and establishing the foundations for the preparation of a World Heritage strategy for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Aruba, the Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Netherlands Antilles will also participate in the CARICOM meeting.
30. The second cycle of meetings includes the organization of three sub-regional meetings in 2011 and 2012 in three countries in the Region (Peru, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic). The National Focal Points will convene at each meeting together with the respective site managers, in charge of the properties inscribed on the List of each sub-region. The sub-regional meetings also aim to strengthen cooperation among States Parties, in order to create a solid platform for the exchange of technical and institutional development over the coming years.
31. Other meetings planned for this second cycle include: a) Two meetings at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris for National Focal Points for the preparation of the Action Plan for the Region; b) Information meetings held with the Permanent Delegations of the countries participating to continue the coordination process; c) The continued support to discussions of organized thematic groups: Maya sites, Sustainability Indicators for Historical Areas, Cultural Routes and Religious Missions, legal advice and the Tentative Lists.
32. Concerning the Retrospective Inventory, the official process started in 2011, but States Parties in the Region have started an analysis process of their nomination files before hand, and some of them have sent preliminary maps of the World Heritage properties in their countries.

33. Following the launching of Periodic Reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean Region by the World Heritage Committee, the following activities are foreseen according to the timetable below:

- July 2010 – February 2011: Submission of draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by the States Parties.
- March 2011: Exchange of priority draft Statements between the Advisory Bodies and the States Parties.
- April 2011: Barbados sub-regional meeting.
- June 2011: Presentation of priority draft Statements of Outstanding Universal Value to the World Heritage Committee.
- During 2011: Submission of information for Retrospective Inventory to the States Parties.
- October 2011: Lima (Peru), sub-regional meeting. Paris (UNESCO Headquarters), Focal Points meeting.
- December 2011: San José (Costa Rica) sub-regional meeting.
- January-November 2011: Submission of information for the Retrospective Inventory from the States Parties.
- July 2012: Submission of questionnaires (Sections I and II) of Periodic Reporting completed by focal points and site managers.
- September 2012- February 2013: Preliminary analysis of the results. Final sub-regional and Focal Points meetings to take stock of results, identify needs, challenges and opportunities and define common approach at regional level.
- February 2013 to June 2013: Elaboration of the outcome document on Periodic Reporting.
- July 2013: Presentation of the results to the World Heritage Committee for its examination at its 37th session.

34. In the framework of the launching of the Periodic Reporting exercise, a training strategy has been discussed with the State Parties of the region. The training methodology has been elaborated based in their needs and inputs and the results of the Zacatecas and Rio de Janeiro meetings. Coordination with the Advisory Bodies is currently on going. The discussed activities include:

- Elaboration and on-line publishing of communication materials, including translations in Spanish and Portuguese, related to benefits and objectives of the *World Heritage Convention* nomination processes.
- Research and development of climate change mitigation at World Heritage properties project.
- Development of alternative approaches to sustainable funding and relationships with mentors. Implementation of on-line training in Spanish regarding World Heritage issues such as management and management effectiveness.
- Development of an on-line learning community related to World Heritage management in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of different management methodologies for heritage properties, one property per year (84 in total in the Region). The objective is to find the best methodology for each case.
- Development of capacities for the integral management of mixed properties.

## **V. Draft Decision**

### **Draft Decision 35 COM 10B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/10B,
2. Recalling decisions **28 COM 16, 7 EXT.COM 5E, 29 COM 5, 30 COM 11E, 32 COM 11D and 34 COM 10B.2** adopted respectively at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004, ) 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004), 29th session (Durban, 2005), 30th session (Vilnius 2006), 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) and 34th session (Brasilia 2010),
3. Takes note of the progress achieved in the follow-up to the first cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and Caribbean region, as well as the results of activities in preparation for the launching of its second cycle, and in particular of the sub-regional workshops organized in Zacatecas (Mexico), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and Bridgetown (Barbados);
4. Welcomes the financial collaboration for the Periodic Reporting exercise offered by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage, Category 2 Centres and States Parties and encourages them to continue to provide assistance for the implementation of the process;
5. Commends the States Parties of the Region for their achievements in the submission of the draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value before the official launching of the Periodic Reporting exercise as requested in Decision **31 COM 11D.1**;
6. Decides to launch the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean and requests the States Parties to actively participate in this process;
7. Welcomes the creation of the web platform for the follow-up and implementation of the Periodic Reporting exercise and encourages the World Heritage Centre, States Parties, Category 2 Centres, Advisory Bodies and other concerned partners to explore all the opportunities that this tool can provide for communication and coordination;
8. Also requests States Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean Region and the Advisory Bodies to complete the review process for the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;
9. Notes with satisfaction the results already achieved and also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing assistance to the States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean region in the framework of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting;
10. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to keep it informed of progress achieved in the Periodic Reporting exercise at its 36th session in 2012.