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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 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

10C. Progress report on Periodic Reporting in all other regions

SUMMARY

This document contains a summary of follow-up activities to the preparations for the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific (see Section I), the first cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America (see Section II), and the follow-up to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Arab States (see Section III).

Draft Decisions concerning boundary clarifications as a follow-up to the Periodic Reporting exercise and the Retrospective Inventory are contained in document *WHC-11/35.COM/8D*.

Draft Decisions:

35 COM 10C.1, see Section I

35 COM 10C.2, see Section II

35 COM 10C.3, see Section III

I. PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A. Progress of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting

1. In Document WHC-10/34.COM/10C, the World Heritage Centre summarised the progress made in the implementation of the two regional programmes in the Asia and the Pacific region: *Action-Asia 2003-2009* and *the World Heritage – Pacific 2009*. A new Action Plan for the Pacific sub-region, covering the period 2010-2015, was also presented at the following web address <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/609/>. The Document provided information on the strategy for the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific region. In Decision **34 COM 10C**, the World Heritage Committee “decides to launch a second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific region and requests the States Parties in the region to actively participate in this process”, and “also requests States Parties of Asia and the Pacific region to prepare all the missing retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value concerning properties located in their territory and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre before 1 February 2011 for examination by the Committee at its 36th session in 2012”.
2. Out of 198 World Heritage properties in the Asia and the Pacific region (as of August 2010), 32 provided the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, 1 a Statement of Significance, 57 a justification for the criteria of inscription, and 108 provided neither justification criteria nor Statement adopted at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List. Therefore, a total of 166 retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value needs to be prepared by the States Parties and adopted by the Committee.
3. In parallel, the Retrospective Inventory of Asian and Pacific properties inscribed on the World Heritage List until and including 1998 has been started. At the end of 2010 and early 2011, States Parties in the region were contacted by the World Heritage Centre with the request to submit appropriate cartographic and geographic information for properties inscribed on the World Heritage List until and including 1998.
4. In compliance with the requests made by the World Heritage Committee to States Parties to finalise all 166 missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value as well as to prepare for the Periodic Reporting exercise (Decisions **32 COM 11E** and **34 COM 10C**), three sub-regional workshops - one for the Pacific (2-7 November 2009, Maupiti, French Polynesia), one for East and Southeast Asia (19-23 April 2010, Taiyuan, China) and the other for West, Central and South Asia (2-5 June 2010, Dehradun, India) - took place with funding from the World Heritage Fund and thanks to generous contributions by French Polynesia, Australia, China, India, and the Republic of Korea.
5. The workshops brought together national focal points from 41 States Parties, international resource persons, representatives from the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) and staff from the World Heritage Centre as well as UNESCO Field Offices in the region. The workshops were an opportunity to provide guidance on preparing draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and on Periodic Reporting questionnaires and Retrospective Inventory.
6. Following the Workshops in the three sub-regions, a series of follow-up activities at national and sub-regional levels were conducted by UNESCO Field Offices in the region in cooperation with States Parties in order to assist States Parties especially site managers who could not participate in one of the three sub-regional workshops in preparing draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and responses to the Periodic Reporting questionnaires. Such workshops were held in Bangladesh, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India (for Bangladesh, India and Nepal),

Indonesia (for Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka (for Maldives and Sri Lanka), Thailand (for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand), Uzbekistan (for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and Viet Nam. In other cases, assistance to site managers and States Parties were provided through direct communication with them.

7. In addition to the training workshops, technical assistance has been provided in various means to a number of States Parties by the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Field Offices in the region for the implementation of Periodic Reporting exercise. For example, a mission was sent to the Solomon Islands to provide direct assistance to the State Party and the site manager of East Rennell for the preparation of the draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.
8. As a result, by 1 February 2011, all the 166 draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value have been submitted by all the concerned States Parties. At the time of drafting this report, 149 Statements of Outstanding Universal Value have been considered as complete and sent to the Advisory Bodies for review, whereas 9 Statements of Outstanding Universal Value are still incomplete.
9. The deadline for the submission of Periodic Reporting questionnaires is 31 July 2011. 41 States Parties and 198 World Heritage site managers are requested to complete the Sections I and II of the questionnaire respectively, and submit them by the deadline. Once the responses to the questionnaire are submitted, a draft report on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting of Asia and the Pacific will be prepared by the World Heritage Centre.
10. After the submission of Periodic Reporting questionnaires by the States Parties, two regional meetings are scheduled – one for the Pacific (September 2011, Apia, Samoa) and another for Asia (December 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea), where a final draft report on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting of Asia and the Pacific will be presented to the States Parties in the region, and a strategy for future jointly prepared. The Samoa meeting will also discuss the outcome of the feasibility study of the Pacific Heritage Hub, which is one of the activities identified in the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010-2015 as a follow-up of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise.

B. Other developments

11. In order to make the most use of the information provided by States Parties and develop regional strategies and programmes for the future, the Government of Japan, through its Funds-In-Trust cooperation with UNESCO, intends to provide support for the development of a publication as final report of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific as a contribution to the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Asia and the Pacific region.
12. One of the notable developments to strengthen the support for World Heritage in the Pacific was the establishment of the Australian Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO, in August 2008, which aims to support World Heritage-related activities in Asia and the Pacific region, with a particular priority in projects in the Pacific region, some of which respond to the needs identified and expressed in the Action Plan during the first cycle of Periodic Reporting and in the *World Heritage – Pacific 2009* programme.
13. As a follow-up of the feasibility study on establishment of sustainable funding mechanism for World Heritage in the Pacific, several consultations were made mainly through tele-

conferences inviting States Parties and organizations concerned. Considering the global climate after the financial crisis, and priorities identified in the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan (2010-2015), a scoping study on the Pacific Heritage Hub (PHH) was proposed as a facility with the aims of enhancing knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and sustainable funding through partnership building in the area of heritage management in the Pacific. A scoping study on PHH is under preparation to be presented at a planning meeting for PHH to be held in Suva, Fiji, from 27 to 28 April 2011 and the Pacific World Heritage workshop to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 5 to 9 September 2011.

Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 35 COM 10C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/10C,*
2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 11C** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*
3. *Takes note of the information proving the progress accomplished in the preparations of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Asia and the Pacific region;*
4. *Commends the States Parties of the Asia and the Pacific region which have engaged themselves in the Periodic Reporting exercise for their active involvement and commitment, and especially for submitting all the draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of 166 properties in the region;*
5. *Thanks the States Parties of Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, France (French Polynesia) and Samoa for their financial and in-kind contributions to the organization of regional/sub-regional workshops and other activities;*
6. *Also thanks regional training institutions in Asia for their support and encourages them to continue to assist the process;*
7. *Requests the States Parties of the Asia and the Pacific region to complete and submit the Periodic Report questionnaires to the World Heritage Centre, at the latest by **31 July 2011**;*
8. *Also requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a final report on the results of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Asia and the Pacific for examination by the World Heritage Committee, at its 36th session in 2012.*

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIRST CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. At its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Committee approved the report on the 1st cycle of the Periodic Reporting for North America and at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Periodic Report for the European region. Subsequently, steps were taken to implement the World Heritage Committee's Decisions **30 COM 11 A.1** and **30 COM 11 A.2**, and reports were submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) and 34th (Brasilia, 2010) sessions respectively.
2. A number of sub-regional meetings were organized in European sub-regions, in cooperation between States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.
3. A meeting for the Mediterranean Europe sub-region was organized from 12 to 18 March 2010 in Acre, Israel, as a follow-up to the meetings for Mediterranean Europe (Madrid, Spain, 2007; Corfu, Greece, 2008, and Tomar, Portugal, 2009). The meeting was organized and financially supported by the Israeli authorities. It focused on Tentative Lists harmonization and on management plans. A focus was given to the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, through case studies. Updates on recent developments in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention* were provided.
4. A meeting for the Western European sub-region took place in Amersfoort, The Netherlands, from 8 to 10 December 2010, as a follow-up to the meeting in Dublin, Ireland, in 2009. It was hosted by the Dutch authorities and attended by representatives of States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. It focused on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise, retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, drafting and harmonisation of Tentative Lists, management plans and the Action Plan for enhanced co-operation in the Western European sub-region.
5. As a follow-up to the meetings for Nordic and Baltic sub-regions held in Helsinki, Finland, 2007 and Stockholm, Sweden, 2009, a meeting was organized by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) in Tallinn, Estonia, from 4 to 6 October 2010, hosted by the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with Tallinn Cultural Heritage Department. The meeting focused on the preparation of the Second cycle of the World Heritage Periodic Reporting exercise, particularly on the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.
6. In addition, informal Periodic Reporting meetings of European States Parties took place on the occasion of the World Heritage Committee sessions (e.g. 34th session, Brasilia, 2010) to exchange views on progress achieved and challenges to be addressed; this was also a forum to exchange information on the outcome of a number of national World Heritage meetings.
7. Further to requests of States Parties, the website for European Periodic Reporting exercise is being constantly updated and is accessible at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=153>. It includes relevant information on recent follow-up meetings, including agendas, list of participants and reports.
8. In view of the preparation of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise for the sub-region of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, a meeting will be hosted

by the Czech authorities, namely the Ministry of Culture and the Czech National Commission for UNESCO, in Prague on 26 and 27 May 2011. Organized with the financial support of UNESCO and with the participation of the Advisory Bodies and international resource persons, the meeting will bring together focal points from the States Parties in the sub-region and focus exclusively on the preparation of the retrospective statements of Outstanding Universal Value, essential for the Periodic Reporting exercise.

9. Iceland has also announced its intention to host a preparatory Periodic Reporting meeting for the Nordic and Baltic sub-region in 2011, in close cooperation with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.
10. Preparatory Periodic Reporting meetings to take place in 2012, with a focus on the preparation of Sections I and II of the questionnaires, are being currently discussed with States Parties in the sub-regions of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as Mediterranean Europe.
11. In view of the high number of sites in the European region and the impossibility, due to lack of sufficient resources, to organize Periodic Reporting preparatory meetings involving all site managers, as in other regions of the world, the World Heritage Centre envisages to develop and apply a “training of trainers” approach, particularly with regard to meetings of the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe sub-region, for which capacity-building was identified as a priority according to the outcomes of the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting. All trained focal points who have attended preparatory meetings will be requested to transmit the knowledge acquired to the World Heritage site managers in their respective countries, by organizing national follow-up seminars and workshops.
12. On the basis of the experience acquired by other regions during the second cycle of the Periodic reporting exercise, and in view of the high number of sites and the impossibility to train all site managers in the region for the preparation of Section II of the questionnaire, the World Heritage Centre envisages to prepare, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, a brief handbook outlining the objectives of Periodic Reporting, its utility for the management and protection of World Heritage properties and provide further comprehensive details to facilitate completing Section II of the questionnaire. Depending on funds available, translation to Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European languages may be provided.
13. The World Heritage Centre would like to draw the attention of States Parties that it does not have adequate financial and human resources for the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the region of Europe and North America. As compared to other regions, the Europe and North America Unit does not benefit from extra-budgetary assistance. Funds allocated by the Regular Programme and Budget and the World Heritage Fund are not sufficient to ensure the preparation of the Periodic Reporting exercise, bearing in mind that it concerns almost 49 % of the World Heritage properties and that capacity-building is an outstanding issue for many States Parties and properties in the sub-regions.
14. In this regard, the World Heritage Centre would like to acknowledge The Netherlands for their financial contribution of 60,000 EUR for the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as to Monaco for its foreseen contribution of 10,000 EUR (pending confirmation) and invites other States Parties to contribute with financial or human resources.

15. A major concern for European States Parties remains the high number of remaining retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as well as the lack of human and financial resources for their timely evaluation and adoption. At its 34th session, the Committee requested States Parties from the Europe and North America region to submit the required retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2012, in order to ensure the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise (Decision **34 COM 10C**). Only 44 properties, out of a total of 445 properties in Europe and North America region, provided a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value at the time of their inscription on the World Heritage List. In addition, 26 Statements of Outstanding Universal Value have been adopted retroactively. Currently, on 6 May 2011, 39 retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and are either under review by the State Party, or under evaluation by the Advisory Bodies. 351 retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value are still to be submitted by States Parties. At various follow-up meetings, States Parties have reiterated their concern about the need to ensure a well-organized and focused process so that the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value can be adopted on time.

Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 35 COM 10C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/10C,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11A.1, 30 COM 11A.2, 31 COM 11A.1, 31 COM 11A.2, 32 COM 11D** and **34 COM 10B.3** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) and 34th (Brasilia, 2010) sessions respectively,*
3. *Takes note of the follow-up activities to the first cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in the region of Europe and North America and the results of the sub-regional meetings for Nordic, Western and Mediterranean Europe;*
4. *Thanks the Israeli authorities for having organized the follow-up meeting for the Mediterranean sub-region in 2010 in Acre, the Estonian authorities for having hosted the follow-up meeting for Nordic and Baltic Europe in 2010 in Tallinn, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation and the Dutch authorities for having hosted the follow-up meeting for the Western European region in 2010 in Amersfoort as well as the Czech authorities for hosting a meeting for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe in 2011 in Prague;*
5. *Calls upon the States Parties and the international community to support financially the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Europe and North America region, considering the scope of work to be done, including capacity-building activities and evaluation of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value;*
6. *Reiterates its request that the States Parties should submit the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value to the World Heritage Centre by 1*

February 2012, in order to ensure the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise;

7. *Also requests* the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a progress report on the follow-up of the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America and on the preparations for the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE IN THE ARAB STATES

1. The second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States was launched at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec City, 2008) and carried out between 2008 and 2010. At its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), the World Heritage Committee welcomed the synthesis report of the Arab States (*WHC-10/34.COM/10A*). It also approved the sub-regional Action Plans proposed by the focal points during the final regional meeting in Algiers (February 2010). The synthesis report has been translated informally into Arabic and disseminated, together with the English and French versions, among many stakeholders in the region.
2. Subsequently, a number of steps have been taken to implement Decision **34 COM 10A**, among which the main activity was to review all answers to the questionnaire and to “translate” them into tables that highlight the needs and priorities of the sub-regions according to each theme of the two sections of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. The “factors affecting the properties” assessment tables have been translated into graphics. This allows a clear overview on these issues. The actions proposed in the questionnaire have been analysed and gathered according to themes in order to let States Parties benefit from one another’s management experience. For each sub-region, a document gathering the above mentioned information and designed to work as a tool for the elaboration of the sub-regional action plans has been drafted and distributed to all focal points. In addition, for the follow-up of the Periodic Reporting exercise in each State Party, a summary document has been elaborated reflecting the planning of actions proposed by the States Parties on a national scale in the questionnaire. It has been distributed to the focal points at the Rabat meeting (7-9 March 2011). It also recalls the elements, identified during the Periodic Reporting exercise, that are still expected by the World Heritage Centre. These include missing or incomplete Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, clarifications of boundaries in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, and establishment or updating of management plans.
3. The Maghreb sub-region has started implementing one of the recommendations of the Algiers meeting, namely the establishment of a network of professionals in cultural and natural World Heritage. The network aims notably at strengthening capacities for the management of World Heritage properties, assisting public administrations in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and facilitating cooperation among States Parties in the sub-region, in order to meet international best practice standards.
4. Three sub-regional workshops are foreseen in order to include all site managers in the discussions related to the elaboration of the Regional Programme. However, due

to various constraints, notably financial, it was decided to hold a single regional meeting for the follow-up of the results of the Periodic Report.

a) Aim of the meeting

At the final regional meeting of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States (Algiers, February 2010), the focal points had identified common themes, priorities and sub-regional actions as a start to the formulation of a Regional Programme for the coming years. The objective of the Rabat meeting was to complete the work started in Algiers and draw the Regional Programme based on the needs identified during the Periodic Reporting exercise. The Egyptian authorities had generously offered to host the meeting in Aswan, from 7 to 9 March 2011. Due to the situation prevailing in Egypt at that time, it was agreed, in close consultation with the Egyptian and the Moroccan authorities that the meeting would finally take place in Rabat, Morocco, at the same dates. The organisation of the meeting has been greatly facilitated by the Moroccan Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO Office in Rabat.

b) Participants

All the national focal points of the Arab States Parties were invited to participate along with the Advisory Bodies to the *World Heritage Convention* (ICCRUM, ICOMOS and IUCN), the mentors of the Periodic Reporting exercise and ALECSO. In Algiers, one of the main priorities identified had been to focus on the natural heritage. Taking into account the fact that the focal points of the Arab Region are all experts in cultural heritage, the World Heritage Centre also invited to attend representatives of States Parties having natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List or natural sites in their Tentative Lists since the first cycle of Periodic Reporting. Being experts in natural heritage, they participated in the meeting bringing their support for the identification of potential activities aiming at safeguarding the natural heritage. Ten national focal points and seven experts for nature participated in the meeting in Rabat. The Chairperson of the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee, the four Mentors and representatives of the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO Field Offices in the region (Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Doha and Rabat) were present, as well as observers from Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

c) Distribution of working groups

The meeting first gave the representatives of the States Parties the opportunity to exchange on the overall priorities of the region before moving into three working groups corresponding to the three sub-regions, namely the Maghreb, Middle-East and Gulf, following the wish expressed in Algiers.

d) Elaboration of the Regional Programme

Each group drew separately a sub-regional Action Plan based on the needs identified in Section I of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. It consisted in completing and detailing the propositions outlined in Algiers and breaking down the actions into concrete activities, including priorities, timetables, budgetary implications and involved entities. For section II the World Heritage properties were grouped into 3 categories: urban clusters, archaeological sites and natural properties. This distribution allowed for the grouping of the management needs of the properties and for the proposal, at a sub-regional level, of specific actions and activities. At that step of the work, the experts in nature gathered separately to draw up an Action Plan for the natural heritage at a regional level. The closing session was dedicated to the sharing of the elaborated Action Plans with a view to highlight common actions envisaged.

e) Main outcomes of the meeting

Following the meeting, the World Heritage Centre analysed the sub-regional Action Plans elaborated in Rabat and highlighted the common actions and activities that could be undertaken on a regional scale. The drafts were sent to the rapporteurs of each group who had the task to have the final document validated by all the focal points. These action plans together with the synthesis of the common actions, constitute the Regional Programme. (See Information Document WHC-35 COM/INF10.C).

The most significant common actions proposed are the following:

- The establishment of national committees for World Heritage that would cooperate at a national and international level for the follow-up of the Periodic Reporting and the effective implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the States Parties;
 - The harmonisation of inventories (methodology) and Tentative Lists (identification of gaps);
 - The improvement of national expertise for drafting nominations acknowledging best practices (action proposed by the Gulf and the Middle-East sub-regions)
 - The involvement of local communities to ensure the sustainable use of heritage and the elaboration of a strategy for the integration of World Heritage into larger-scale planning;
 - The national committees would have the task to obtain political support for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by developing awareness-raising activities and designing strategies for capacity-building activities;
 - The establishment and/or reinforcement of networks of professionals in the field of heritage both at the academic and technical levels;
 - The setting-up of an updated programme of training activities, notably in link with the ICCROM Athar Programme and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH);
 - The elaboration of strategies to ensure funding for Arab World Heritage properties (either through financial support workshops, creation of a fundraising unit at the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain, or the creation of an Arab Fund for World Heritage).
5. The World Heritage Centre followed the recommendation of the Rabat meeting relating to the balanced representation of experts in the fields of cultural and natural heritage and officially requested States Parties to designate, in addition to the current focal points who are experts in culture, focal points for natural heritage. Such “double” focal points would serve as the basis of the national committees for World Heritage and ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
6. Another of the main recommendations of the Rabat meeting was the establishment, in each State Party, of a national entity (whether a national unit or a national committee) specifically in charge of coordinating the various aspects of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at national level and as counterpart to the World Heritage Centre. After the meeting, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee published a statement on the World Heritage Centre web site, inviting States Parties to establish their national committees for World Heritage and highlighting the focus on natural heritage in the Region.

Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 35 COM 10C.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-10/35.COM/10C and WHC-11/35.COM/INF.10C,
2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 10A** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States;
4. Commends the States Parties of the Arab Region for their commitment and thanks especially all focal points for their effective participation and involvement;
5. Notes with satisfaction the increased concern for natural heritage issues and requests the States Parties to designate a focal point for nature to stand by and work in close liaison with the focal point for culture;
6. Approves the Regional Programme prepared by the focal points of the Arab States Parties and encourages them to continue the cooperation initiatives shown in Algiers and Rabat to implement the activities described in the sub-regional action plans, including through extra-budgetary funding, for the effective implementation of the Regional Programme in the Arab Region;
7. Also encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts in the preparation and implementation of their National Action Plans and to follow the recommendation of the Rabat meeting regarding the establishment of national entities for World Heritage, as early as possible;
8. Invites States Parties to work closely with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain for the reinforcement of their capacities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
9. Decides that significant modifications to boundaries and changes to criteria (re-nominations) requested by States Parties as a follow-up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise will not fall within the limit of the two nominations per State Party per year imposed by Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines, while they will still fall within the overall limit of forty-five complete nominations per year. This decision shall apply for the **1 February 2012** deadline for the Arab region, after which time for the normal limit established in Paragraph 61 will be resumed;
10. Reiterates its request to the Arab States Parties to submit the remaining retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value no later than **1 February 2012**, and boundary clarifications for their properties, no later than **1 December 2011**;
11. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to publish the results of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting and the Regional Programme and to present a progress report at its 37th session in 2013.