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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-sixth session**

**Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation  
24 June – 6 July 2012**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports**

**10C: Progress Report on the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting in  
Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **SUMMARY**

This document contains a summary of the activities undertaken in the framework of the implementation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and Caribbean Region following the launching of the exercise by Decision **35 COM 10B**.

The internet platform specifically 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: 36 COM 10C**, See Point IV.

## I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 35th session in 2011, by Decision **35 COM 10B**, the World Heritage Committee launched the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC), and requested the States Parties of the Region to actively participate in the process. The Final Report of the Periodic Reporting exercise will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee for approval at its 37th session in 2013.
2. The first phase of preparatory activities in the LAC Region (2009-2011) involved the organization of one international meeting in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 2009 and three sub-regional workshops in Zacatecas (Mexico), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Bridgetown (Barbados), financed by the World Heritage Centre, the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage, Category 2 Centres in Zacatecas and Rio de Janeiro, and States Parties of the Region. The World Heritage Centre thanks States Parties for the technical and financial support provided, which demonstrated a solid commitment in contributing to this important exercise for the entire Region.
3. By Decision **31 COM 11D.1**, the World Heritage Committee requested States Parties to prepare retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for World Heritage properties in their territories. A total of 115 out of 116 draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value needed were received by the World Heritage Centre from States Parties before June 2011, prior to the launching of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting: 79 cultural, 33 natural, 3 mixed (60 in South America; 40 in Central America; 16 in the Caribbean). 105 of them were considered 'complete': 71 cultural and 32 natural (53 in South America; 38 in Central America; 14 in the Caribbean). 10 were considered 'incomplete': 8 cultural, 1 natural and 1 mixed (7 in South America; 2 in Central America; 1 in the Caribbean). Complete retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value were sent to the Advisory Bodies for their evaluation: IUCN (32 evaluations) and ICOMOS (73 evaluations). One retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) was already adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in June 2011.
4. The World Heritage Centre continues assisting States Parties in the drafting process for Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of LAC properties inscribed on the World Heritage List before 2006.

## II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING IN LAC

5. The internet and intranet platform launched for the follow-up of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in 2011 was made fully operational (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/363>). National focal points and site managers have been able to complete Sections I and II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire on the website of the World Heritage Centre. In March 2012, more than half of the information requested had been registered by States Parties. In March 2012, 22 out of 32 National focal points had started filling in the Section I questionnaire, and 78 site managers out of 127 were completing Section II. According to the views expressed by the participants at the second series of meetings organized in 2012 within the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the platform is being used

widely and efficiently by the national stakeholders and will prove to be an important tool for cooperation.

6. The website includes a repository section with information on the Tentative Lists and advances in the draft Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and a thematic groups section which has been structured in line with the general characteristics of World Heritage properties in each sub-region: a) Mexico and Central America – archaeological sites, cultural itineraries, natural heritage, modern heritage and monumental ensembles; b) South America – archaeological sites, historic centres, religious missions and Afro-American heritage; c) the Caribbean - cultural landscapes, the Slave Route, risk management, natural heritage, historic centres and fortifications. As an e-learning tool, a series of videos to explain different processes to be discussed during the meetings for focal points and site managers were integrated in the platform.
7. In order to have specific information about the Periodic Reporting exercise process prior to the undertaking of the sub-regional meetings, the World Heritage Centre designed and sent to focal points and site managers a questionnaire requesting specific information in order to identify concrete issues to be discussed during the workshops. The information received has been used as a tool for future actions and proved to be very useful and timely during the capacity-building training sessions on the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the Retrospective Inventory process.
8. The calendar of activities and the strategy for the Region was approved during the meeting held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 26 to 28 November 2009. The calendar included two cycles of sub-regional meetings which had, 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.
9. With the aim of reinforcing the capacities of LAC States Parties and in line with the first series of meetings organized in the framework of the preparation of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the second series of meetings concentrated on the analysis of Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value already submitted, the decisions of the World Heritage Committee concerning policies affecting the LAC Region, the preparation of guidelines for progress made in the Retrospective Inventory process and the training of participants in the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire (Sections I and II). The meetings also aimed at strengthening cooperation among States Parties in order to create a solid platform for the exchange of technical and institutional development in the coming years. Organized by the World Heritage Centre with the contribution of the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage and the States Parties involved, the following three sub-regional meetings were held. Regional and national activities to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the *Convention* and the relationship between World Heritage and sustainable development and the role of communities were also discussed at these meetings.
10. The **first sub-regional meeting** for States Parties from the South America sub-region was held in Ouro Preto (Brazil) from 9 to 11 February 2012. 79 participants from 10 countries attended the meeting, including 17 national focal points, site managers and heritage directors from 9 countries of the sub-region. 57 Brazilian participants, including authorities and experts responsible for the protection of World Heritage, representatives of the Category 2 Centre in Rio de Janeiro also participated in the meeting organized by the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN), the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio), the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Directorate of Historic Heritage, the Category 2 Centre in Rio de Janeiro and the National Commission for UNESCO. See: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/830>

11. **The second sub-regional meeting** was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 15 to 17 February 2012. 63 participants representing 21 focal points and site managers from the Caribbean sub-region, national representatives of the host State Party, the UNESCO Havana Office, IUCN, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre were present at the meeting. The meeting was organized by the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the National Commission for UNESCO. See <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/829>
12. **The third sub-regional meeting** of the first cycle was held in Zacatecas (Mexico) from 12 to 14 March 2012. 112 participants attended, including 12 focal points, site managers and heritage directors from 4 countries of the sub-region. 53 Mexican participants, including national focal points and site managers and representatives of national 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 participated. Representatives of 2 Subsidiary bodies also attended the meeting. The three-day meeting was organized by the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the Category 2 Centre of Zacatecas, INAH, CONANP, the Mexican National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (CONALMEX) and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. See: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/847>
13. A Meeting is foreseen to be organized with Permanent Delegations of the Latin American and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) in order to keep them informed of the results of the various meetings held within the framework of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the LAC Region.
14. Thanks to the generous offer made by the Chilean Government, a final meeting for the assessment of the exercise will be held in Santiago de Chile at the end of 2012. On this occasion, the focal points from the LAC Region will meet to elaborate a regional strategy and related action plan to finalize the final report to be submitted to the Committee at its 37th session in June 2013.
15. The revised calendar of activities for the finalization of the Periodic Report can be found at the following link:  
<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/pages/documents/document-363-1.pdf>

### III. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAC REGION

16. International Assistance requests from States Parties of the Region were channelled to preparatory assistance to attend to emergency and technical request. The approved requests are the following:

#### *Sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger*

- International Expert Meeting, 'Conservation of Wood and Metal Structures in the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works' (approved on 27 February 2012);

#### *Conservation and management requests*

- Monitoring, registration and valorisation project of Joya de Cerén archaeological site (approved 21 June 2011, under implementation);

- Training Programme on Biology, Fisheries and Conservation of Pelagic Fishes that live or visit the Cocos Island National Park (approved 13 June 2011, under implementation);
  - CATIE's 32nd Annual International Protected Areas Course, 'Effective management within the context of landscapes and global change' (approved 13 June 2011, fully implemented);
  - Preparation of nomination dossier for the Sunken City of Port Royal (approved 4 January 2012, under implementation);
  - CATIE's 33rd Annual Protected Area Course, 'Instruments for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change' (awaiting implementation).
17. With the support of the World Heritage Centre, the following States Parties underwent the process of updating their Tentative Lists: Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The following States Parties are in the process of submission of Tentative Lists: Paraguay, Colombia, Guyana and Guatemala. In relation to Decision **35 COM 12C** 'Reflection concerning the upstream process', two pilot projects from the Region were accepted: the nomination of 'Cultural and Industrial Landscape of Fray Bentos' (Uruguay) and 'Grenadine Island Group', a joint venture between Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
  18. As reported previously, a number of projects within the Region have continued, largely through funding provided by extra-budgetary resources. Projects presently being implemented include: a) Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid (Bolivia), a reactive monitoring mission UNESCO/ICOMOS was held in November 2010 – Japanese Funds-in-Trust; b) Technical support to assist the State Party in the Emergency Plan of the Historic Sanctuary and Support of Machu Picchu (Peru) and analyse the effectiveness of the current management system in order to preserve its natural and cultural values; c) Sustainable Development Project of the Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul (Mexico) – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).
  19. The Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme (CCBP), endorsed by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou in 2004 (Decision **28 COM 16**) and as part of the 'Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2004-2014', continued its implementation under the coordination of the UNESCO Havana Office in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and other key partners. In support of the CCBP concerning cultural heritage and the promotion of its Module 4, the UNESCO Havana Office coordinated a workshop on the management of cultural landscapes, 'Landscapes and their Role in the Cultural Dimension of the Territory and Human Settlements', from 31 October to 2 November 2011. In July 2011, the CCBP's training Module 6 on Natural Heritage Management was made available online in English, French and Spanish.
  20. The preparation of the nomination process of the Andean Road System/Qhapaq Ñan to the World Heritage List continues to be successfully implemented. The following two meetings were undertaken during this period: Meeting of the Qhapaq Ñan Technical Secretariat, 5 to 7 September 2011 at UNESCO Headquarters (16 participants: which included members of the Technical Secretariat, experts in management and conservation, Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates of the six participating States Parties, and World Heritage Centre representatives); and a Meeting hosted by Bolivia from 26 to 28 April 2012 to adopt the course of action for the submission of the nomination file by 30 January 2013.

21. The two Category 2 Centres in the Region, Zacatecas (Mexico) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), approved by the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2009, entered into their operation phase by contributing 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 played an important supporting role in the preparation of the workshops for the Periodic Reporting exercise; in Ouro Preto, Brazil (9-11 February 2012) and in Zacatecas, Mexico (13-15 March 2012). A training programme on risks management was organized by ICCROM in Zacatecas in December 2011. Finally, the Programme for the two category centres for the present biennium 2012/2013 was discussed by site managers and focal points during the sub-regional meetings of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

#### IV. DRAFT DECISION

##### **Draft Decision: 36 COM 10C**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/10C,*
2. *Recalling decisions **28 COM 16, 7 EXT.COM 5E, 29 COM 5, 30 COM 11E, 32 COM 11D, 34 COM 10B.2 and 35 COM 10B** adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 7th extraordinary (UNESCO, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005), 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 35th (UNESCO, 2011) sessions, respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided on the progress made in the implementation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC) and commends the States Parties for their efforts to achieve objectives in accordance with the approved calendar;*
4. *Commends the States Parties of the LAC Region for their active involvement and commitment to the Periodic Reporting exercise;*
5. *Thanks the States Parties of Dominican Republic, Brazil and Mexico for their financial and in-kind contributions to the organization of sub-regional meetings;*
6. *Welcomes the financial collaboration for the Periodic Reporting exercise provided by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage, Category 2 Centres, States Parties and Advisory Bodies, and encourages them to continue to provide assistance for the implementation of the process;*
7. *Takes note of the progress made by the Qhapaq Ñan project, coordinated by the World Heritage Centre, and for the fruitful cooperation between national institutions from the various States Parties to develop it further as a best practice for other transnational and serial nominations, as requested by Decision **31 COM.12B**;*
8. *Requests the States Parties of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region to complete and submit the Periodic Reporting questionnaires to the World Heritage Centre by **31 July 2012**;*

9. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a final report on the results of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its **37th session in 2013**.