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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

World Heritage

1 EXT.GA

WHC-14/1 EXT.GA/3

Paris, 9 September 2014

Original: English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters

13-14 November 2014

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Revision of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly

Revision of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly: Follow-up to Resolution 19 GA 4

SUMMARY

At its 19th session, the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention decided to establish an open-ended working group to make proposals to amend the Rules of Procedures in order to achieve the goal of an equitable geographical and cultural representation, including through allocation of seats by region (defined with reference to UNESCO's electoral groups) on the World Heritage Committee, as well as "other measures".

This document presents the conclusions of the open-ended working group for the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties.

This document should be read in conjunction with WHC-14/1 EXT.GA/INF.3

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the World Heritage Committee requested that an item on the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention concerning geographical balance in the composition of the Committee be included in the Agenda of the 19th session of the General Assembly.
2. During its 19th session, and following the results of the elections to the World Heritage Committee, the General Assembly debated extensively on this Agenda item.
3. By Resolution **19 GA 4**, the General Assembly decided to fully apply Article 8, paragraph 2, of the World Heritage Convention which stipulates that "Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world".
4. Therefore, the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended working group - of limited duration of one year with an equitable participation of all regions - to make proposals to amend the Rules of Procedures in order to achieve the goal of an equitable geographical and cultural representation, including through allocation of seats by region (defined with reference to UNESCO's electoral groups) on the World Heritage Committee, as well as "other measures".
5. To examine the proposals of the open-ended working group, the General Assembly decided to hold an extraordinary session in UNESCO's Headquarters, no later than November 2014, financed by extrabudgetary resources.
6. The open-ended working group held 3 meetings in UNESCO Headquarters, on 23-24 January, 20-21 March and 20-21 May 2014, under the Chairmanship of H. E. Mr Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Switzerland to UNESCO. Mr Francisco Javier Gutierrez Plata, from the Permanent Delegation of Colombia, was elected as Rapporteur of the Working Group.
7. The open-ended working group formulated and examined several proposals for a new system to ensure equitable geographical and cultural representation including through allocation of seats by region and debated on other measures. The open-ended working group agreed to submit to the extraordinary session of the General Assembly a number of measures and three proposals for allocation of seats by region.
8. These proposals are presented below.

II. "OTHER MEASURES"

9. Over its 3 meetings, the open-ended working group discussed "other measures" as per Resolution **19 GA 4** (paragraph 8).
10. During its last meeting, the open-ended working group agreed to keep the following measures and to submit them to the extraordinary session of the General Assembly:
 - Increase the gap from 4 to 6 years before a new election to the Committee;
 - Possibly re-introduce a multiple rounds voting system (this will be subject to the voting model adopted by the extraordinary session of the General Assembly);
 - Introduce a standard candidature format for the presentation of experts (model to be developed by the Secretariat);

- Ensure that the voting system maintains a choice during all stages of the process by avoiding “Clean Slates” (this will be subject to the voting model adopted by the extraordinary session of the General Assembly);
- Ensure that the voting system retained reserves one seat for a State Party that has never served in the Committee instead of the seat currently reserved for a State Party with no property on the World Heritage List (agreement in principle but implementation modalities to be defined).

11. The open-ended working group also proposed under “other measures” the possible suspension of the examination, during their mandate, of nominations submitted by Committee Members. Knowing that this issue was to be partially addressed by the 38th session of the Committee (Doha, June 2014), the open-ended working group decided to recommend to the General Assembly to take into account the Committee’s decision on this matter.

12. At its 38th session, by Decision **38 COM 9C**, the World Heritage Committee recalled the principle that submission of nominations to the World Heritage List is an exclusive prerogative of the States Parties, in conformity with the World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Committee strongly encourages the States Parties, with the exception of those that have no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, to refrain on a voluntary basis from submitting new nominations during their mandate, taking into consideration the External Auditor recommendation 12¹ and in accordance with pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, and within the context of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List.

III. PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SYSTEM DESIGNED TO ENSURE EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

13. Over the first two meetings of the open-ended working group, a number of proposals aiming at ensuring geographical representation through allocation of seats by region were developed. At its last meeting, in May 2014, the open-ended working group did not reach a consensus on one proposal but agreed on the idea to submit 3 proposals to the extraordinary session of the General Assembly as follows:

1. The “GRULAC proposal”
2. The “Estonian proposal”
3. The “modified Norway proposal”

¹ See Document 38 COM 9C, available at the following address <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2014/whc14-38com-9C-en.pdf>
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14. The tables below provide a detailed description of each proposal:

1. The “GRULAC proposal”

The model foresees a number of seats calculated on a pro rata basis of the number of States Parties per electoral group with 1 additional seat for Group II and V(b), thus leaving 1 open seat.

	G I	G II	G III	G IV	G Va	G Vb	Total
prorata	3	2	3	4	4	2	18
addition min		1				1	2
open	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Total Min	3	3	3	4	4	3	

2. The “Estonian proposal”

The model foresees a minimum of 2 seats per electoral group, thus leaving 9 open seats.

	G I	G II	G III	G IV	G Va	G Vb	Total
minimum	2	2	2	2	2	2	12
open	*	*	*	*	*	*	9
Total Min	2	2	2	2	2	2	

3. The “modified Norway proposal”

The model foresees a minimum of 2 seats per electoral group with 1 additional seat for Group IV and 2 additional seats attributed to Group V(a). 1 floating seat among Groups III and IV is foreseen. The model also foresees 1 seat reserved for a State Party having never served in the World Heritage Committee to be deducted from the minimum number of seats, thus leaving 5 open seats.

	G I	G II	G III	G IV	G Va	G Vb	Total
	27	25	32	41	45	19	
minimum	2	2	2	2	2	2	12
attributed				1	2		3
floating			*	*			1
[reserved-not yet served]	*	*	*	*	*	*	
open							5
Total Min	2	2	2,5	3,5	4	2	

IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION

Draft Resolution: 1 EXT.GA 3

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/1 EXT.GA/3 and Document WHC-14/1 EXT.GA/INF.3,
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