



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

# World Heritage

## 20 GA

**WHC-15/20.GA/15**  
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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters  
18-20 November 2015

**Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly  
of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*  
at its 20th session (UNESCO, 2015).**

## **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

### **1A. OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

No Resolution.

### **1B. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPOPRTEUR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Resolution: 20 GA 1B**

The General Assembly,

1. Elects **H.E. Mr. MORAES CABRAL (Portugal)** as Chairperson of the 20th General Assembly,
2. Elects **Mr. DANTAS DA COSTA (Brazil)** as Rapporteur of the 20th General Assembly,
3. Elects **China** and **Palestine** as Vice-Chairpersons of the 20th General Assembly.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **2A. Provisional Agenda**

#### **Resolution: 20 GA 2A**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/20.GA/2A,
2. Adopts the Agenda included in the above-mentioned Document, as amended.

## **2B. Provisional Timetable**

### **Resolution: 20 GA 2B**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/20.GA/2B,
2. Adopts the timetable of its 20th session as included in the above-mentioned document.
  
3. **REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNESCO, 2013)**

### **Resolution: 20 GA 3**

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the 19th session of the General Assembly (UNESCO, 2013).
  
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

### **Resolution: 20 GA 4**

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on the activities of the World Heritage Committee.
  
5. **REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE 1ST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNESCO, 2014)**

### **Resolution: 20 GA 5**

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the 1st extraordinary session of the General Assembly (UNESCO, 2014).

## 6. ELECTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### **Resolution: 20 GA 6**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/20.GA/6, WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6A.Rev, WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6B and WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6C,
2. Recalling Resolution **1 EXT.GA 3**, adopted at its 1st extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2014), and in particular its paragraph 6 which requested the General Assembly of States Parties at its 20th ordinary session in 2015 to decide on the attribution of the floating seat for Group III or Group IV,
3. Decides that the floating seat allocated on a rotational basis for Group III and Group IV, as defined in Rule 14.1c) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, is *de facto* already allocated to Group IV at its 20th session in 2015, shall be allocated to Group III at its 21st session in 2017, and shall rotate between Groups III and IV at each subsequent session;
4. Elects the following nine States Parties: Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Indonesia, Kuwait, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe as members of the World Heritage Committee;
5. Approves the candidature format for experts in the field of cultural/natural heritage as contained in Document WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6C.

## 7. EXAMINATION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND, INCLUDING THE STATUS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATES PARTIES

### **Resolution: 20 GA 7**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/20.GA/7 and WHC-15/20.GA/INF.7,
2. Having in particular examined the accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period ended 31 December 2013,
3. Approves the accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period ended 31 December 2013;
4. Takes note of the financial statements relating to the World Heritage Fund for the period 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2015.

**8. DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 16 OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION***

**Resolution: 20 GA 8**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/20.GA/7, WHC-15/20.GA/INF.7, WHC-15/20.GA/8 and WHC-15/20.GA/INF.8,
2. Recalling Resolution **19 GA 8** adopted at its 19th session (UNESCO, 2013),
3. Recalling World Heritage Committee Decisions **38 COM 13**, **39 COM 11** and **39 COM 13A** on the mandate of the *ad hoc* working group of the World Heritage Committee to further discuss and make recommendations *inter alia* on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund,
4. Recalling Article 16 paragraph 1 of the *World Heritage Convention* on the determination, in the form of a uniform percentage, of the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties,
5. Decides to set at 1% the percentage for the calculation of the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties for the financial period 2016-2017;
6. Notes the status of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund as presented in Document WHC-13/19.GA/INF.8;
7. Takes note of the Secretariat's proposal in Document WHC-15/20.GA/8 and invites the *ad hoc* working group of the World Heritage Committee to further examine it, in accordance with its mandate;
8. Notes the financial difficulties that the World Heritage Fund is facing and recalls, in this regard, that the assessed annual contributions to the World Heritage Fund are a legal obligation;
9. Reiterates the plea of the World Heritage Committee to States Parties to the *Convention* to pay their assessed annual contributions by 31 January in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the activities financed by the World Heritage Fund, and invites the General Assembly to consider at its next session potential measures concerning arrears;
10. Decides to include on the agenda of its next session in 2017 proposals by the *ad hoc* working group of the World Heritage Committee on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund following its discussion at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul, 2016).

**9. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST: REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 19 GA 9**

**Resolution: 20 GA 9**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document WHC-15/20.GA/9,
2. Recalling Resolution **19 GA 9** adopted at its 19th session (UNESCO, 2013),
3. Takes note of the good follow-up of most of the recommendations of the implementation as detailed in the implementation plan updated for 2014-2015 and document 196 EX/23.INF.4;
4. Also takes note of the amendments made by the World Heritage Committee to its Rules of Procedure in order to implement recommendations 12 and 20 of the independent evaluation;
5. Strongly urges the World Heritage Committee to continue implementing any pending requests in relation to its mandate;
6. Also urges the World Heritage Committee to pursue the efforts undertaken to link the follow-up of the Implementation Plan for the recommendations of the independent evaluation on the Global Strategy and the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan drawn up as part of the reflections on the Future of the *World Heritage Convention*;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to include any further follow-up in the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its activities (2016-2017) to be presented to the General Assembly at its 21st session in 2017.

**10. AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON WORKING METHODS OF THE EVALUATION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF NOMINATION: FOLLOW-UP TO DECISION 39 COM 13A**

**Resolution: 20 GA 10**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/20.GA/10 and recalling document WHC-15/39.COM/13A which contains the outcomes of the *ad hoc* working group that examined the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination,
2. Recalling also Decisions **39 COM 13A** and **39 COM 11**,
3. Expresses its appreciation to the German leadership and the delegates of Algeria, Finland, Germany, India, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Peru, the Philippines, Poland,

Senegal, Serbia, and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as the representatives of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre for their work;

4. Welcomes the reflections and recommendations of the *ad hoc* working group with regard to the working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination;
5. Conveys its appreciation to ICOMOS for introducing new evaluation procedures, especially for enhancing the consultation and dialogue with the States Parties as requested in Decision **38 COM 13**, and welcomes the responsiveness of ICOMOS and IUCN to further strengthen dialogue and consultation with nominating States Parties while respecting the independence of the Advisory Bodies;
6. Welcomes the revisions of the *Operational Guidelines* which reflect some of the recommendations of the *ad hoc* working group;
7. Welcomes the extension of the mandate of the *ad hoc* working group composed of, in principle, two members from each regional group, and one extra regional group representative who is not a member of the World Heritage Committee, established at the 38th session (Doha, 2014) to be convened by Turkey, to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund;
8. Takes note of the oral report of the Chair of the *ad hoc* working group and requests the group to take into account the discussions held at the present session of the General Assembly in its deliberations.

## **11. FOLLOW-UP TO THE AUDIT OF THE GOVERNANCE OF UNESCO AND DEPENDENT FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND ENTITIES**

### **Resolution: 20 GA 11**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/20.GA/11,
2. Recalling Resolution **19 GA 9** of the General Assembly of States Parties adopted at its 19th session (UNESCO, 2013),
3. Takes note of the efforts undertaken by the World Heritage Centre in the framework of the final audit report on the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities;
4. Also takes note of the debate at the 197th session of the Executive Board on the final audit report on the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities and of the decision to recommend to the 38th session of the General Conference to establish an open-ended working group to further discuss the recommendations of the audit report with the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the 38e General Conference;

5. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report on this matter at the 21th session of the General Assembly, in 2017.

## **12. FUTURE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION OUTCOMES AND PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2012-2022**

### **Resolution: 20 GA 12**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document WHC-15/20.GA/12,
2. Recalling Resolutions **17 GA 9**, **18 GA 11** and **19 GA 10** adopted during the 17th (UNESCO, 2009), 18th (UNESCO, 2011) and 19th sessions (UNESCO, 2013) of the General Assembly of States Parties respectively, concerning the adoption of the Strategic Action Plan and Vision and the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan, including the links between the draft Implementation Plan and monitoring of the implementation plan for the recommendations of the independent evaluation,
3. Welcomes the continuous progress in the performance of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and the support of the States Parties, to pursue efforts undertaken in the implementation;
5. Also requests that a progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its 21st session;

## **13. WORLD HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Resolution: 20 GA 13**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/20.GA/13 and WHC-15/20.GA/INF.13,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 5C**, **38 COM 5D**, and **39 COM 5D**, adopted respectively at the 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014), and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions of the World Heritage Committee,
3. Thanks the Technical University of Brandenburg, the Government of Germany and the Government of Viet Nam for their support in the development of the draft policy document on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*;



4. Welcomes the work accomplished by the group of experts on a voluntary basis despite the lack of resources, under the coordination of the World Heritage Centre, and in close consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to develop the draft of the policy document annexed to Document WHC-15/39.COM/5D;
5. Notes the debate on this item that took place at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015), the comments expressed by the States Parties on this draft through a broad consultation process, as well as the main outcomes of UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
6. Adopts the revised policy document as a first step toward the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the implementation processes of the *Convention*, contained in document WHC-15/20.GA/INF.13 as amended;
7. Invites the World Heritage Centre and States Parties to continue engagement through an ongoing consultation process involving all stakeholders to enrich the policy document and invites the World Heritage Centre to provide an update on progress made to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul, 2016);
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with States Parties and all relevant stakeholders, to elaborate and submit for the consideration of the Committee – once a clear framework for the future Policy Guidelines, including its scope and structure, has been adopted by the General Assembly, and within the available resources – proposals for:
  - a) the necessary changes to the *Operational Guidelines*, which would translate the principles of the policy document on sustainable development into specific operational procedures,
  - b) indicators for measuring the progress of the policy's implementation;
  - c) capacity-building initiatives, needed to enable implementation, including an indication of the related costs;
9. Calls on States Parties to contribute financially towards this end;
10. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to sensitize States Parties, as appropriate, to the implications of the policy, notably in terms of the need to establish appropriate governance mechanisms to achieve the right balance between World Heritage and Sustainable Development, and integration between the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives and to that same end encourages the World Heritage Centre to cooperate with all of UNESCO's sectors and in particular with the relevant programmes such as MAB and MOST;
11. Also encourages UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to widely disseminate the Policy Document as adopted by the General Assembly, and other related publications, to the world heritage community and the broader public, and promote its application;
12. Recommends that Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs related to World Heritage, and the wider network of the UNESCO Forum University and Heritage, prioritize issues related to the implementation of this policy within their capacity-building and research initiatives;
13. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present to the General Assembly, at its 21st session in 2017, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above provisions.

#### **14. REFLECTION ON THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE (2015-2017)**

##### **Resolution: 20 GA 14**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined documents WHC-15/20.GA/14 and WHC-15/20.GA/INF.14,
2. Takes note of Decision **39 COM 10B.5** of the World Heritage Committee concerning the launch of a reflection period on the Periodic Reporting exercise;
3. Highlights the importance for all States Parties to actively participate in the reflection on the Periodic Reporting exercise;
4. Calls upon all States Parties to provide extra-budgetary funding for the reflection on the Periodic Reporting exercise.

#### **15. OTHER BUSINESS**

No Resolution.

#### **16. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

No Resolution.