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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
23 – 28 October 2009

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Calculation of the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention*

SUMMARY

In conformity with the terms of Article 16, paragraph 1, of the World Heritage Convention, the General Assembly of States Parties thereto is called upon to determine, in the form of a uniform percentage, the amount of the contribution to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties for the financial period 2010-2011.

This Article also states that in no case shall the compulsory contribution of States Parties to the Convention exceed one per cent of their contribution to the regular budget of UNESCO. At all preceding General Assemblies of States Parties, it was decided that this percentage would be set at 1 % (one per cent).

Draft Resolutions: 17 GA 6.1 and 17 GA 6.2

I. Summary

1. In conformity with the terms of Article 16, paragraph 1, of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*, the General Assembly of States Parties thereto is called upon to determine, in the form of a uniform percentage, the amount of the contribution to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties for the financial period 2010-2011.

2. This Article also states that in no case shall the compulsory contribution of States Parties to the *Convention* exceed one per cent of their contribution to the regular budget of UNESCO. At all preceding General Assemblies of States Parties, it was decided that this percentage would be set at 1 % (one per cent).

II. Decisions adopted by the Committee concerning the States Parties' contributions

3. At its 32nd session (Quebec 2008) the Committee adopted Decision 32 COM 16.2, which stipulates, in paragraph 7:

- Recommends that the General Assembly of States Parties consider paying future contributions to the World Heritage Fund using the split assessment method and percentages used for core contributions to UNESCO

4. In conformity with Decision 32 COM 16B, a Working Group on financial matters was established and met twice before the session of the Committee was held in Seville. After consulting with the UNESCO Comptroller, the World Heritage Centre informed the Working Group about the difficulties in applying the split assessment method and percentages used for core contributions to UNESCO. A representative of the Bureau of the Comptroller gave an oral account of these difficulties at the first meeting in February 2009. A Comptroller's note in this regard is set out in an annex to document WHC-09/17.GA/INF.6.

5. At its 33rd session, (Seville 2009) the Committee adopted Decision 33 COM 16B, which stipulates, in paragraph 14:

- Requests the World Heritage Centre to develop a range of options, for consideration by all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, for equitable additional voluntary contributions to the Fund with a view to increasing activities under the *World Heritage Convention*, including the possibility of using a percentage of the current contributions taking into account the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

6. The World Heritage Centre has determined a schedule of preparation and implementation from the second half of 2009, in order to examine, with the central services, the different options and their feasibility and submit them for examination to all States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*.

III. Draft Resolution: 17 GA 6.1

The General Assembly,

1. 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 2010-2011.

IV. Draft Resolution: 17 GA 6.2

The General Assembly,

1. *Takes note of the decisions of the Committee and of their status of implementation.*
2. *Also takes note of document WHC-09/17.GA/INF.6 on the status of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund.*