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World Heritage

20 GA

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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**

**Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda: Follow-up to the audit of the governance
of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities**

SUMMARY

This Document contains information on the participation and the follow-up of the World Heritage Centre concerning the audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities.

Draft Resolution: 20 GA 11, see Point III.

I. BACKGROUND

1. The 37th session of the General Conference requested for the External Auditor to conduct an audit of the governance of UNESCO as a follow-up to the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit's (JIU) recommendations concerning the methods of work of UNESCO's intergovernmental bodies. In this resolution, the General Conference invited all governing bodies, intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs established by conventions *"to perform a self-assessment covering the overall relevance of their work in relation to their specific terms of reference as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of their meetings, including the impact and utility of experts' time; the outcome of these self-assessments should be reported by January 2015"* (37C/Resolution 96).
2. The 19th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO, 2013) welcomed document 37 C/49 on the follow-up of the United Nations Joint Inspections Unit's (JIU) recommendations concerning the methods of work of UNESCO's intergovernmental bodies and invited the World Heritage Centre *"to launch a consultation process open for all States Parties, based on the self-assessment framework delivered by the External Auditor"* (Resolution **19 GA 9**). With this document, the General Conference addressed matters related to the efficiency and effectiveness of the meetings of the intergovernmental and other bodies and formulated governance reform and cost saving measures.
3. As requested by Resolution 37C/96, a self-assessment questionnaire was circulated to the Chairpersons of the governing entities of the World Heritage Convention, i.e. the Chairperson of the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee and the Chairperson of the 19th session of the General Assembly of States Parties, to coordinate the comments by Committee members and States Parties. The finalization of the self-assessments and the interim report was completed in February-March 2015.
4. In April 2015, the 196th session of the Executive Board discussed the interim report on the findings and main recommendations of the governance review (document 196 EX/23 and 196 EX/23.INF.5).

II. FINAL AUDIT REPORT ON THE GOVERNANCE

5. The final audit report on the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities was included in documents 197EX/28 and 197 EX/28.INF and discussed by the 197th session of the Executive Board (7-21 October 2015). The Documents are available at the following addresses <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002342/234267e.pdf> and <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002342/234265e.pdf>
6. By its decision 197 EX/28-44, the Executive Board propose to create an open-ended working group to further examine the final audit report on the governance of UNESCO and Dependent Funds, Programmes and Entities.

III. DRAFT RESOLUTION

Draft 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.*