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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
14-15 October 2003**

**Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda: New voting mechanism and revision of the procedures
for election of the members of the World Heritage Committee**

Draft Resolution on new voting mechanism and revision of the procedures for election of the
members of the World Heritage Committee

SUMMARY

This document provides the General Assembly with information on the following:

1. New voting mechanism and revision of the procedures for election of the members of the World Heritage Committee, and
2. Procedures for the presentation of candidatures to the World Heritage Committee.

The Draft Resolutions can be found in Section II.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. At the 13th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (Paris, 30-31 October 2001), "a number of Delegates expressed their concern at the length of time required to elect members of the Committee".¹ As a result the following Resolution was adopted by the General Assembly:

"The 13th General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage requests the Secretariat to review the mechanics of the system of voting for new members of the Committee. Proposals for a more time efficient and simplified voting system should be submitted for review by the twenty-seventh session of the World Heritage Committee in 2003 and decision by the 14th General Assembly in 2003".²

2. Following this Resolution, the Secretariat conducted research on the different election mechanisms existing within UNESCO's governing bodies. The results of this research and a proposal for a more time-efficient and simplified voting system were presented to the 27th session of the Committee (Paris, 30 June - 5 July) in working document WHC-03/27.COM/18A.

3. The World Heritage Committee, after having discussed the proposals for a new voting mechanism for the election of the members of the Committee, adopted the following decision (**27 COM 18A.4**):

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the proposal made by the Secretariat for a more simplified voting system for the election of members of the World Heritage Committee during the General Assembly,*

2. *Decides not to recommend to the General Assembly any amendments to Rule 13 of its Rules of Procedure on the election of members of the World Heritage Committee.*

4. In addition to this issue, the Committee also discussed ways of granting further transparency to the procedures for the presentation of candidatures to the World Heritage Committee.³ The Committee adopted the following decision on this issue (**27 COM 18A.2**):

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling the aim of the Resolution adopted by the 13th General Assembly (Paris, October 2001) (on election procedures of the Officers of the General Assembly) to grant greater transparency and regional representativity to this election process,*

¹ Paragraph 101, Report of the 13th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (Paris, October 2001)

² Ibid.

³ For background information see Section II of document WHC-03/27.COM/18A

2. Recognising that this approach should also be applied to the procedures for the election of members to the World Heritage Committee as this would further facilitate the consultation process amongst States Parties,

3. Recommends to the General Assembly that it include the following Rule in its Rules of Procedure:

The Secretariat shall ask all States Parties, at least three months prior to the opening of the General Assembly, whether they intend to stand for election to the World Heritage Committee. If so, its candidature should be sent to the Secretariat at least six weeks prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

At least four weeks prior to the opening of the General Assembly the Secretariat shall send to all States Parties the provisional list of States Parties candidates. The Secretariat will also provide information on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund made by each of the candidates. This list of candidatures will be revised, as necessary, based on the evolution of the candidatures and of the payments received.

This list of candidatures shall be finalised 48 hours before the beginning of the election. No other candidatures nor payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted after this time.⁴

II. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

DRAFT 14 GA 4.1

The General Assembly,

1. Taking into consideration the decision of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee on the new voting mechanism and revision of the procedures for election of the members of the World Heritage Committee (decision **27 COM 18A.4**),

2. Decides not to amend Rule 13 of its Rules of Procedure on the election of members of the World Heritage Committee.

DRAFT 14 GA 4.2

The General Assembly,

1. Noting the decision of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee on procedures for the presentation of candidatures to the World Heritage Committee (decision **27 COM 18A.2**),

⁴ Rule based on Rules 1-3, Appendix 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference

2. *Decides to include the following text as new Rule 13 - Procedures for the presentation of candidatures to the World Heritage Committee⁵:*

13.1 The Secretariat shall ask all States Parties, at least three months prior to the opening of the General Assembly, whether they intend to stand for election to the World Heritage Committee. If so, its candidature should be sent to the Secretariat at least six weeks prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

13.2 At least four weeks prior to the opening of the General Assembly the Secretariat shall send to all States Parties the provisional list of States Parties candidates. The Secretariat will also provide information on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund made by each of the candidates. This list of candidatures will be revised, as necessary, based on the evolution of the candidatures and of the payments received.

13.3 This list of candidatures shall be finalised 48 hours before the beginning of the election. No other candidatures nor payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted after this time.

⁵ The numbering of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly will thus be amended accordingly.