The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/18/42.COM/12A and WHC/18/42.COM/14,

2. Recalling Decisions 39 COM 15, 40 COM 15 and 41 COM 14, which highlight the priority that should be given to conservation and management of World Heritage properties, takes note of the efforts made and progress achieved in this regard by increasing the proportion of the World Heritage Fund dedicated to conservation for the latest biennia and encourages further increase of this proportion, as appropriate; Part I: Presentation of the final accounts of the World Heritage Fund for 2016-2017, implementation of the World Heritage Fund under the biennium 2018-2019

3. Also takes note of the financial report for the biennium, which ended 31 December 2017;

Arrears and contributions

4. Recalls that the payment of compulsory and assessed voluntary contributions is, as per Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention, an obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the Convention and calls upon all States Parties, which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions for 2018, including voluntary contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the Convention, to ensure that their contributions are paid at their earliest convenience;
5. Thanks those States Parties which have already made supplementary voluntary contributions in 2018 and also calls upon all other States Parties to commit to consider allocating supplementary voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund in line with the Roadmap for the Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund with the target of 10 or more States Parties doubling their annual contributions;

6. Notes with appreciation the supplementary costs covered by the Bahraini authorities as host of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in addition to those listed in the Statement of Requirements;

7. Further takes note of the follow-up to the online consultation survey concerning the annual fee for World Heritage listed properties on a voluntary basis presented in Part III.C, regrets the low response rate from States Parties and invites States Parties that have responded positively to make such supplementary voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund and States Parties which have not responded, to continue consultations with their respective local administrations;

**Flexibility in the management of the World Heritage Fund for a more efficient implementation of the Convention**

8. Taking into account the risk level of exchange rate fluctuation, authorises the Director of the World Heritage Centre to proceed, in consultation with the relevant UNESCO services, with all necessary budgetary adjustments in the second year of each biennium, with a maximum additional amount of US$ 100,000 to the provision for exchange rate fluctuation from the operating reserve, if the initial amount approved will not be sufficient;

9. Noting the management constraints of the World Heritage Fund, also authorises the Director of the World Heritage Centre to make budgetary adjustments dedicated only to the budget lines related to capacity-building and regional programs, when necessary, between approved headings and reserves, without exceeding a maximum of 15% of the approved World Heritage Fund Expenditure Plan, during the second year of each biennium and in conformity with the priorities and decisions of Committee, and requests the Secretariat to report accordingly to the Committee at its following sessions;

10. Further authorises the World Heritage Centre to enhance use of temporary assistance, as appropriate, through suitable contractual modalities for the implementation of activities in the framework of the World Heritage Fund and to report back to the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee;

11. Takes note furthermore of the Executive Board Document 204 EX/5 Part II.E on “Cost recovery policy: Revised Proposal for a differential rate policy for Management Cost Rates”;

12. Also recalls the on-going concern about the sustainability of the Fund and the establishment of a Roadmap for the Sustainability of the Fund adopted by it at its
41st session (Krakow, 2017) that includes short-, mid- and long- term measures to address the constraints that the World Heritage Fund faces in view of the growing number of properties on the World Heritage List and the increasing need for support to States Parties;

13. Recommends strongly that the current Management Cost rate of 0% continues to apply to the special account of the World Heritage Fund, thus avoiding a disruption of the current level of support provided through the Fund to States Parties to the Convention for the identification, protection and conservation of the World Heritage properties;

Part II: Follow-up to Decision 41 COM 14

14. Also recalling its Decision 41 COM 14 on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund,

15. Further recalling the Roadmap for Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),

16. Expresses its appreciation to the Ad Hoc Working Group for its work and recommendations with regard to the follow-up of Decision 41 COM 14;

Resource mobilization

17. Endorses the “Resource mobilization and communication strategy” Framework document contained in Annex to this Decision and also requests the Secretariat, with the support of the Advisory Bodies as appropriate and of those States Parties wishing to assist in this regard, to develop a two-year Resource Mobilization and Communication (RMC) Plan and to provide a report thereof to the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2019;

18. Welcomes the efforts made by the World Heritage Centre with regard to extrabudgetary resource mobilization opportunities and innovative fund-raising possibilities, including the Marketplace, also invites all States Parties to support these initiatives and other fundraising events dedicated to the implementation of the Convention, also encourages all States Parties to assist the World Heritage Centre in fund-raising activities, and commends the Republic of Korea for its contribution of extrabudgetary funds to support fund-raising activities and partnership initiatives by the Centre;

19. Takes note with appreciation of the proposal of a cost-sharing model for evaluation of nominations, which was recommended for approval by the ad hoc working group of 2017-2018 and described in Annex E of document WHC/18/42.COM/12A, and decides to further examine this matter, including possible modalities as well as legal basis or implications, at its 43rd session in 2019, with a view to referring it for examination by the General Assembly at its 22nd session in 2019;
Recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Comparative Mapping Study

20. In relation to Recommendation n°1 of IOS study, also decides to keep the current practice of overhead costs in the contracts of the Advisory Bodies;

21. In relation to Recommendation n°2 of IOS study, takes note moreover of the summary of the legal opinion contained in Annex C of document WHC/18/42.COM/12A, also decides to continue to use the services of the current three Advisory Bodies and to further discuss [possibly through the ad hoc working group] the modalities for the possible use of services of other entities with suitable experience and knowledge, in line with UNESCO’s rules and regulations;

22. In relation to Recommendation n°4 of IOS study, further encourages the States Parties, Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies to continue exploring options for improvements to advisory services, taking into consideration maintaining and possibly improving quality, and achieving greater efficiency and potential cost savings;

23. In relation to Recommendation n°4 of IOS study with regard to reactive monitoring, furthermore encourages the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to expand the use of regional experts on reactive monitoring missions, if it would substantially reduce the travel costs and not decrease the quality of the expertise;

24. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the implementation of this decision at its 43rd session in 2019