The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/23.GA/8,

2. Reiterating that for all States Parties to the Convention, the payment of annual contributions to the World Heritage Fund is a legal obligation under Article 16;

3. 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 strongly urges all States Parties, which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions, including voluntary contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the Convention, to ensure that their contributions are paid in the best of time;

4. Also recalls that the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and overall funding for World Heritage are strategic issues and a shared responsibility which concern States Parties and all relevant partners, affecting the overall credibility of the World Heritage Convention, including effectiveness and efficiency of World Heritage protection;

5. Recommends States Parties, when putting forward World Heritage List nominations, to contribute to financially sustain the system of evaluation of nominations by the Advisory Bodies through the mechanism for making voluntary contributions to a dedicated sub-account of the World Heritage Fund established by Decision 43 COM 14.