



editorial

The 25th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, held in Paris from 25th to 30th June 2001, was an important occasion to check the vitality and the strength of the World Heritage Convention.

At this year's session we received confirmation that the Government of Peru had decided to suspend a cable car project planned to go to the top of Machu Picchu. This news followed intense discussion with Peruvian authorities to scotch the plan. World Heritage bodies had expressed the fear that the cable car would bring in an ever-increasing number of tourists, and thus lead to the loss of Machu Picchu's particularity as a place that is relatively inaccessible, and eventually to the loss of the World Heritage qualities of this site.

We also got word at the Bureau from the Brazilian authorities that they had closed the illegally-opened Colon Road at one of the most awesome natural sites in the world: the Iguazu National Park. The placing of Iguazu on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999, we were told by the Brazilian delegation, helped in creating the momentum and obtaining support within the government to save the site from growing pollution.

Of course, the Bureau did not only hear good news. We heard reports on twenty-four of the thirty sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger. We also received an update on the criminal destruction of the Bamyán Buddhas by the Taliban.

As the perception of cultural and natural heritage sites changes, this 25th Bureau was forward-looking in more ways than one. We welcomed the input of the two representatives of the Indigenous Peoples' Working Group, which prompted the adoption of a resolution to be considered at the Committee meeting in December in Helsinki.

The World Heritage Centre presented to the Bureau some preliminary proposals for the re-organization of International Assistance allocated through the World Heritage Fund. The Centre also outlined plans to increase funding of projects through extra-budgetary sources, especially for long-term programmes. With a levelling out of the World Heritage Fund, the Centre needs to promote new types of bilateral agreements and extend its co-operation with the private sector.

The 26th session of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest in June 2002 will provide a unique opportunity to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The Bureau was informed that UNESCO and the Italian Government are promoting an International Congress on the World Heritage Convention in November 2002 to evaluate the past achievements of the Convention and to look towards the future, as well as to provide an opportunity to launch partnerships and new programmes.

*Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre*

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*Koichiro Matsuura,  
Director-General of UNESCO,  
on Bamyán, June 2001*

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## A Busy 25th Session

At the 25th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, from June 25th to 30th, the seven Bureau members (Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Finland, Morocco, Thailand and Zimbabwe) met with observer delegations from other States Parties, representatives from the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM) and several other organizations, in often heated debate, to discuss the main issues facing cultural and natural conservation today. Over two hundred participants attended the session which was chaired by Peter King, Australia.

This was a busy Bureau session with the revision of the state of conservation of forty-seven properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Twenty-four properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger were also discussed. The Bureau recommended the inscription of twenty-two new sites for approval by the World Heritage Committee in Helsinki, Finland in December 2001. Twelve nominations that the Bureau referred back to States Parties for additional information will also be examined by the Committee in Helsinki. Nine nominations were deferred and seven rejected.

At the opening session the Bureau held an extended discussion on the destruction of the Bamyán statues by the Taliban last March, and endorsed a recommendation on Afghan cultural heritage for adoption at the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage



Moments at the 25th session of the Bureau, from left to right: Dawson Munjeri, Zimbabwe, Rapporteur; delegates and observers in session; Barbara Giudice, Newsletter Editor, with Peter King, Chair of the WH Committee; Giora Solar, ICOMOS, and Jose Pedro de Oliveira Costa, Brazil; Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director, and Peter King.

Convention in October. The Bureau also endorsed a recommendation to the Committee on the development of the concept of a World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE) and discussed new wording for the cultural criterion (vi), one of the six criteria for inscription of cultural sites on the World Heritage List.

World Heritage Centre Director, Francesco Bandarin, in his report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the 24th session of the Committee, pointed to the urgency of finding new ways of financing long-term conservation, since, he said, starting in 2003, the World Heritage Fund will remain at a constant level of approximately US\$3.4 million.

'The total World Heritage Fund will have decreased by 32% between 2000 and 2003. We are looking beyond this. We can change this fate with a collective effort to acquire greater resources,' Mr Bandarin said.

In order to do this, the World Heritage Centre will seek further bilateral agreements, on the model of the existing France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement, the recent Joint Declaration on Co-operation between UNESCO and the Italian Government, and the forthcoming Agreement for Netherlands-UNESCO Co-operation. An important source for project support and funding will also be through partnerships, such as those developed with the United

Nations Foundation, the World Bank, the Organization of World Heritage Cities and the World Monuments Fund.

Plans were also announced for the launch in 2002 of the 30th-anniversary celebration of the World Heritage Convention, with a view to evaluating the past and looking towards new partnerships for the management and conservation of sites in the future.

## WHIPCOE on Stage

The idea of a World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE), first presented at the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee in Cairns, Australia in December 2000, made significant strides at the 25th session of the Bureau.

Both Josie Weninger, Field Unit Superintendent at Parks Canada and Joanne Willmot, Chair of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management, Australia got a warm round of applause when they presented Committee Chair, Peter King, with traditional clapping sticks, bracelets and a necklace, as well as an aboriginal batik-died crepe satin fabric, all from Ernabella, central Australia (see picture above).



The biggest tribute to these representatives of the Indigenous People's Working Group, was the full debate of the issue, and the Bureau's endorsement of a text on the proposal of a Council for consideration at the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee in Helsinki next December.

'I am overwhelmed by the response of the States Parties. What we have done here is open up a debate,' said Ms Willmot in an interview.

The working group would like to see the Council have advisory body status.

'The model would be that of an international NGO, like IUCN and ICOMOS: an advisory body for those sites with an aboriginal dimension,' Christina Cameron, Director-General of National Historic Sites, and head of the Canadian delegation to the Bureau, told the *Newsletter*.

'WHIPCOE would be the representational voice of indigenous peoples so that when World Heritage matters are under consideration, indigenous aspects would be discussed,' Ms Cameron added.

While the Bureau endorsed the text to be discussed at next December's Committee meeting, Adul Wichiencharoen, Chairman of Thailand's World Heritage Committee, and the head of his country's delegation, expressed the view that indigenous issues should best be dealt with on a national level.

'My caution to the Bureau,' he said after the discussion, 'was that indigenous issues are a domestic, national question, and are best handled on that level. It is then up to each State Party to bring site nominations to the Committee. Through the mechanism proposed, you would be introducing a political element.'

At this stage the indigenous working group does not seem to be too worried about the debate to come.

'The sense I got from the session of the Bureau is that people were wanting to move forward. There was some hesitation, but we got a lot of support from a lot of people,' Ms Weninger said.

'Any new idea is always a challenge,' Ms Willmot added. 'There is bound to be some resistance.'

Due to interest expressed by many Delegates and Observers to the Bureau, a new Working Group has been set up which includes representatives from: Australia, Belize, Canada, Ecuador, the United States, ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre.

## Two Interviews

Much discussion at the 25th session of the Bureau revolved around how the Convention has changed since its beginnings in 1972. The types of sites recommended to the Committee this year reflect the developing trends in the perception of cultural and natural sites.

### ICOMOS A Look at the Convention

The *Newsletter* spoke to Jukka Jokilehto, World Heritage Consultant, who was with ICCROM for twenty-six years, retiring in 1998 as Assistant to the Director-General in the field of built heritage. He is now a consultant to ICOMOS.

**On the eve of the 30th anniversary of the Convention, how would you say that perceptions have changed?**

In the early days, in 1979-80, monuments, buildings, were the obvious choice. But, we have discovered that the real significance of such sites creates a link with the context they are in and its development. We now look at historic towns, cultural landscapes, and beyond that to intangible culture, associated with specific sites. And every heritage has its intangibles.

**Over the years, there has been a lot of discussion about the universal value of cultural sites. Have views on this changed?**

In our beginnings, history of art and architecture was written largely by Europeans and Americans. The World Heritage Convention has now opened up the possibility of a more pluralistic approach. I think we can say that the different cultures of the world form the universal, and the authentic expression of a particular culture thus acquires universality. We are now looking more and more at how the spiritual needs of a culture have been expressed: at how a temple, a church, a sacred mountain are responses to such needs.

**The number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List continues to grow. Is there a point where the line must be drawn?**

That line should be natural. From now on, I think we will need to start using the existing World Heritage List and the States Parties' tentative lists as a reference field to re-write the history of culture in view of what we have learnt.

### IUCN The Convention Thirty Years On

Jim Thorsell, former Head of IUCN's Natural Heritage Programme, and now Senior Adviser for World Heritage, after eighteen years of visiting and evaluating natural sites, offers his views on the state of the World Heritage Convention.

**Is there a limit to the number of sites that can be inscribed? At what point might the World Heritage List begin to lose credibility?**

This is a key question that the World Heritage Committee is going to have to address. Is the World Heritage List meant to be an inventory of all the important heritage places around the world, or a select list of the 'best of the best'? Although the *Operational Guidelines* for the Convention point to the latter, the Committee's view is tending to be more inclusive than exclusive. But if every site is considered 'unique', is then everything unique?

Even though there are no limits to the number of sites that would eventually comprise the World Heritage List, perhaps it is time to consider if there should be. Otherwise the currency could be devalued.

**What are the implications of not putting a cap on the number of sites listed?**

Even with the current number of sites, the Committee has found that keeping track of their condition is becoming a more demanding task than inscribing more.

This does not mean, however, that IUCN would suggest an ultimate cap. We know that some of the world's greatest natural areas have yet to be considered for nomination... I believe an... effective route would be to consider having a 'sunset clause' which would require that a site's World Heritage values be re-evaluated after a certain number of years - say twenty-five.

(This interview has been reprinted from *World Conservation, the IUCN Bulletin*).

# After Bamyan: Strengthening the Instruments of Protection

**The 25th session of the Bureau examined the lessons to be learnt from the destruction last March at the hands of the Taliban forces of the pre-Islamic statues at Bamyan in Afghanistan.**

**M**ounir Bouchenaki, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, Pierre Lafrance, former French Ambassador to Pakistan and the Director-General's Special Envoy in Afghanistan, and Lyndel Prott, Director of the Division of Cultural Heritage, UNESCO Sector for Culture, all spoke at the opening session.

Ms Prott reported that existing international law falls short of being able to prevent such destruction as that at Bamyan. She suggested that in the absence of international legal instruments 'with teeth', World Heritage bodies could build momentum for 'soft laws', non-obligatory instruments, to influence public opinion.

'Even if structures were in place, UNESCO has no forces of its own. It depends on the good will of the international community. And where there are basic human rights offences, it is unrealistic to think that cultural heritage will be protected,' Ms Prott said.

Ms Prott pointed out that the Taliban are not bound by the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, nor by the World Heritage Convention of 1972, since they are not the internationally recognized government of Afghanistan.

In pointing to the weakness inherent in the existing body of international law on the protection of cultural heritage, Ms Prott said that, in both the 1954 and the 1972 conventions, sanctions must be applied by the State in which the cultural heritage offence occurred.

'Governments have been reluctant to include in any international instrument offences against international law concerning cultural property which can be sanctioned by any State,' Ms Prott explained.

But UNESCO Director-General, Koïchiro Matsuura, said at the recent opening of an exhibition at Paris Headquarters on the destruction at Bamyan, that means must be considered which will enforce the application of existing international conventions, including sanctions.

'The World Heritage Convention, which is to celebrate its 30th anniversary next year, should have its protection clauses

reinforced. The notion of sanctions should be taken into account,' he said.

Mr Pierre Lafrance told the *Newsletter* that he believes UNESCO should talk to specialists in Muslim law in order to develop convincing arguments to prevent iconoclastic acts.

'We must continue to speak with the Taliban,' he said, 'in order to demonstrate to them the aberration of their actions.'

Aïsha Farooqui, the Observer of Pakistan at the Bureau session, reminded the Bureau that United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, had ruled out punitive sanctions against the Taliban for the destruction of the statues.

'New sanctions against a people with nothing left to lose,' she said, 'would be counter-productive.'

The Bureau adopted a recommendation concerning Afghan cultural heritage for consideration by the General Assembly of States Parties at its thirteenth session in October 2001.



An IUCN delegation at the Colon Road

## Road at Iguaçu Closed

**In spite of the protests of local inhabitants, the illegally-opened Colon Road, which ran through the centre of the Iguaçu National Park in Brazil, has now been closed, ending a long struggle by Brazilian environmental authorities and World Heritage bodies to protect one of the world's most beautiful natural sites.**

'We, who are responsible for the environment, wanted the road closed. But we don't have police power,' Jose Pedro de Oliveira Costa, National Secretary for Biodiversity and Forests at the Brazilian Ministry for the Environment, told the *Newsletter*.

'Without support from the national legislative authorities and the World Heritage Committee to include this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, we never would have got results this quickly,' Mr Costa, who was an Observer at the Bureau, said.

The local population resisted moves to close the 60-km road, objecting that the official highway, which runs around the park, doubled the distance they had to travel to get from one side of the park to the other.

In what the Brazilian delegation termed 'a carefully designed operation', 300 federal police went into the park on June 14th and broke up seventeen kilometres of the Colon road. They also sank a raft used to ford a river inside the park. A guardhouse is being constructed on the site to prevent further encroachment.

Authorities are now trying to improve relations with the local inhabitants. According to a new management plan, monitoring, educational, and visitors' centres will be established at seven communities bordering the park. A law, passed last year and which is about to be implemented, provides for the involvement of local communities in plans for all protected areas.

'It is important for everyone to understand the issues of conservation. That is why we are aiming for education,' Mr Costa said.

Plaza Mayor, Arequipa



## Assistance for Arequipa

**The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee has allocated US\$75,000 in emergency aid to local authorities in Arequipa, Peru's second-largest city, for preliminary work to safeguard the Cathedral, following the June 23rd earthquake in the province of Arequipa.**

**K**nown as 'the white city' for its churches and elegant colonial architecture, the town of Arequipa was hard hit by the quake. Arequipa authorities say the Cathedral bell tower collapsed through the roof and a second tower could crumble at any time. Twenty percent of the stone architecture in the historic centre of the town has been damaged, particularly on the main square, Plaza Mayor. Authorities told UNESCO that 15 % of the buildings in the town are uninhabitable, and another 25% have suffered considerable damage.

The quake, registering 7.9 on the Richter scale, lasted for one minute, bringing down churches, buildings and homes

in the region. Seventy people died throughout the province, and some 20,000 others have been left homeless. This was the largest earthquake to hit Peru in thirty-one years.

While in Paris for the Bureau, Peter King, Chair of the Committee, held meetings with the Peruvian authorities and the Advisory Bodies to discuss further assistance that could be provided for emergency action and for future reconstruction of Arequipa.

Herman van Hooff, Chief of Section for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Heritage Centre, reported to the Bureau that authorities have a master plan for rehabilitation that is in its final stage of preparation and that now needs to be adjusted to respond to the new situation. The World Heritage Centre is working very closely with the UNESCO Representative in Peru to ensure that timely and effective collaboration be developed to support the authorities of Peru and Arequipa in the efforts to restore and reconstruct the city.

Zabid, Yemen



## The Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

According to the findings of a recent WHC-ICOMOS mission, the Yemeni historic town of Zabid, whose religious, military and political past is important in the context of South-Arabian civilization, is rapidly giving way to un-planned modern construction.

The report says that since the time of its inscription in the World Heritage List in 1993, 35% of the town's urban texture has disappeared or has been replaced by modern buildings. Twenty per cent of the old houses have been abandoned by their former inhabitants, while activity at the city souk has almost completely stopped. Zabid has been on the List of World Heritage in Danger since December 2000.

Henry Cleere, ICOMOS World Heritage Co-ordinator, warned that the town is 'a visual as well as a human catastrophe.'

'It is surprising that in ten years' time very little has been done to check the rise of new construction', Mr Cleere said in an interview at the 25th session of the Bureau.

'It's as if we had to start from zero. The town has been inundated with concrete and cement. Non-biodegradable rubbish lines the streets. And once again it is the quality of life of the inhabitants that is at stake. The market in the north of the city is selling fish and meat under unacceptable conditions,' he added.

The report envisages action which would include the preparation of a detailed urban conservation plan focusing on the social and economic revitalization of Zabid. The plan also includes the proposal for an emergency assistance request to be submitted by the State Party.

At the 25th session of the Bureau, the Delegate of Morocco, Abdelaziz Touri, called for an appeal to be launched by UNESCO for an international campaign to safeguard the city.

The Bureau recommended that Yemen request emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund and take 'all the necessary measures' to stop immediately all new construction in the old city. Resources from the World Heritage Fund will be used as core funds to attract contributions from other donors, such as the World Bank.

Sites in Danger

**Visit to the Loire Valley** During the weekend preceding the June Bureau session, French heritage authorities hosted a trip to this recently inscribed cultural landscape for all members of the Bureau. Apart from visiting numerous monuments and sites along the Loire River, Bureau members met with local officials and site managers to discuss preservation issues.

**United Nations Forum on Forests** At the Forum, held at UN Headquarters in New York in late June, Natarajan Ishwaran, Chief, WHC Natural Heritage Section, reported that, by 2005, World Heritage forests could represent as much as 5% of the world forest cover. UN Foundation (UNF) grants to the World Heritage Centre and to UNDP-GEF have benefited several World Heritage forests. UNF grants to these UN units are helping to build infrastructure and strengthen management of other tropical forest sites in Brazil, Cambodia, Central Africa, India and Madagascar in preparation for their nomination as World Heritage.

**Byblos** At the invitation of the Municipality of Byblos, Lebanon the Centre undertook a joint mission with the Ateliers Cergy-Pontoise (France) in June to discuss the organization in Byblos of an urban design workshop in 2002. The workshop will aim at developing links, both physical and spiritual, between the coastline, the archaeological site, the medieval town and the new urban extension areas. The workshop also hopes to contribute to the on-going study on the valorization of Byblos' cultural resources, financed by the World Bank.

**Global Strategy and Periodic Reporting Meeting in South-East Asia** Revision of tentative lists of the South-East Asian sub-region and identification of new categories for potential cultural properties to be nominated on the World Heritage List were the main themes of this meeting held last April at the Tana Toraja site, Indonesia. The conclusions of the meeting will be used in the preparation of policy orientations for World Cultural Heritage nominations from this sub-region and for the Regional Periodic Reporting exercise to take place in Asia in 2003.

**Colloquium on Heritage and Cultural Landscapes** Experts met at Saint-Emilion, France, last June to discuss landscape concepts in the framework of the World Heritage Convention and the European Landscape Convention and to review specific case studies of a number of World Heritage sites.

**Alpine Arc Meeting** Representatives of States Parties of the Alpine Arc (Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland) met, at the beginning of July, at the Mountain Museum in Turin, Italy to discuss future joint nominations of areas from the European Alps.

**Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Sites** Visits to El Vizcaino and Sian Ka'an in Mexico were set up in May and June to brief government officials and local stakeholders on this UNF project and to allow the project team to get a more complete view of the site management situation. Activities at Tikal National Park, Guatemala continue: identifying and ranking threats to biodiversity at the site and identifying the tourism-related activities that could be used to help mitigate the threats.

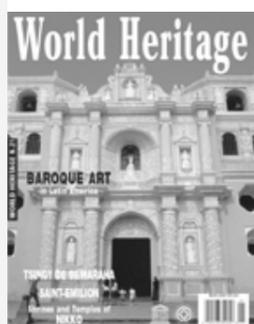
## What Are They Doing ?

**Minja Yang**, WHC Deputy-Director, is developing projects to address the problem of urban encroachment on the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Pakistan with the support of Strasbourg's (France) Urban Development Agency. She is also advising the Indonesian authorities in preparing the World Heritage nomination of Bali which will be a composite nomination of temple complexes and the traditional irrigation system; **Sarah Titchen** has been appointed Chief of the newly-formed Policy and Statutory Implementation Section which is to oversee and co-ordinate much of the work associated with the World Heritage statutory meetings and other statutory functions. The new section will streamline the Centre's statutory work and ensure the standards of quality and consistency of the Centre's communication with the Committee, the Bureau and the General Assembly. Ms Titchen will maintain her responsibilities for the Pacific region; **Galia Saouma-Forero** has left the post of Chief of the African Cultural Desk at the Centre for the post of Chief of Operational Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean in the UNESCO

Division of Cultural Heritage; **Elizabeth Wangari**, in addition to her responsibilities as Senior Programme Specialist for Natural Heritage in Africa, has become the Chief of the African Cultural Desk a.i., following the departure of Ms Saouma-Forero; **Giovanni Fontana Antonelli**, an architect and landscaper, has joined the Centre's staff as an Associate Expert for Africa, from a previous posting as UNESCO Associate Expert for Cultural Heritage, in Windhoek, Namibia. He is working on natural and cultural aspects for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Sub-Saharan Africa; **Kentaro Tanaka**, Associate Expert for the Arab States has returned to Tokyo, Japan to take up a posting at the Agency of Cultural Affairs at the Direction of International Affairs. He has been replaced by Associate Expert **Natsue Saito**, who will be working for the Asian Cultural Heritage Desk.



Natsue Saito



**World Heritage Review No. 21** has been available since July in bookshops in Spain, France, Canada and the United States (and by subscription elsewhere). The leader article in this issue focuses on Baroque art in Latin America, where thirty cities contain outstanding examples of baroque architecture. Other articles deal with: the recent destruction by vandals of portions of the Megalithic Temples of Mnajdra on the island of Malta; Tsingy de Bemaraha, a nature reserve in central Madagascar, host to an extraordinary diversity of flora and fauna; Saint-Emilion: a remarkable cultural landscape and the first vineyard to be included in the World Heritage List; the Shrines and Temples of Nikko, sacred to the Japanese for many centuries.

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Bureau members during the Loire River trip

### 24 to 26 August

**Meeting of Site Managers of all Nordic World Heritage Sites**, Jelling, Denmark.

### 4 to 12 September

**Regional Thematic Expert Meeting: Asian Sacred Mountains**, Japan.  
Information: m.rossler@unesco.org

### 6 to 8 September

**Global Monitoring for World Heritage Sites' Periodic Reporting System**. Workshop, Sopron, Hungary. (ISPRS Commission VII, Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NATO).  
Information:  
<http://geoinfo.cslm.hu/events/SAT/LeafletSAT.pdf>,  
be@cslm.hu

### 21 to 23 September

**XXI Edition of the International Prize 'Colonia Magna Grecia'**, Palmi, Calabria, Italy. (Rotary International Clubs, Southern Italy).  
Information: President of the Prize Dr A. Libertini,  
Fax 0039 0832 30 75 85

### 27 to 29 September

**Symposium on the History of Earth Sciences in Austria** with a focus on the World Heritage cultural landscape Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut. (Austrian UNESCO Commission).  
Information: <http://www.hauser.cc/hallstatt>

### 27 to 30 September

**Desert Landscapes and Oasis Systems**, Cairo, Egypt. (WHC, Egyptian Delegation, UNESCO Cairo Office).  
Information: m.rossler@unesco.org

### 8 to 12 October

**Meeting of the drafting group to revise the Operational Guidelines**, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.

### 30 to 31 October

**Thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention**, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.

### 1 November

**Fifth Extraordinary Session of the World Heritage Committee** (election of new Bureau members), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.