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

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Twenty-fourth ordinary session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters (Room IV)
26 June – 1 July 2000**

**Information Document on a Proposal for a World Heritage Fellowship
Programme.**

This document is included as an information document to be considered as part of Agenda item 7, i.e. requests for international assistance. It briefly outlines a proposal made by Hungary, to the last General Conference of UNESCO (1999), to create a World Heritage Fellowship Programme, and the response of the Centre to that proposal. The consideration of the Hungarian proposal will depend on the Bureau's deliberations, particularly on the Working Document WHC-2000/CONF.202/13 detailing the conclusions and recommendations of an evaluation of international assistance provided from the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau is requested to take into consideration the Hungarian proposal to establish a World Heritage Fellowship Programme when reviewing the Document WHC-2000/CONF.202/13 and considering recommendations for revising the strategies and priorities for granting international assistance from the World Heritage Fund.

1. At the 30th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the Hungarian Delegation submitted Draft Resolution 40 calling for the creation of a World Heritage Fellowship Programme.
2. The principal objective of the proposed Fellowship Programme is to promote the development of expertise in the fields of protection and promotion of World Heritage, particularly in a large number of States Parties to the Convention that have very few or no designated World Heritage sites. The proposed Fellowship Programme is intended to encourage teams of specialists to work together to prepare tentative lists of sites, nominations of new properties to the World Heritage List or state of conservation reports of designated World Heritage sites in States Parties with few or no sites on the World Heritage List.
3. The Centre, in its comments to the Director of the Bureau of Budget of UNESCO, welcomed the proposal but pointed out that the World Heritage Fund already finances a considerable number of fellowships out of the World Heritage Training Budget allocation set aside by the World Heritage Committee at its annual sessions. For example, in the case of natural heritage training, the Mweka College of Wildlife Management, in Arusha, Tanzania, has been awarded an annual sum of US\$ 30,000 since 1994 for financing three fellowships; similarly the Garoua College for training specialists in wildlife in Cameroon has been awarded US\$ 45,000 for financing three fellowships every biennium. In the case of cultural heritage too, several fellowships and grants for training are awarded as part of annual contributions from the World Heritage Fund to training courses and workshop conducted by ICCROM. Hence, an estimated sum of about US\$ 200,000 – 300,000 per year may already be targeted for providing fellowships and training grants from the World Heritage Fund. However, the Centre had noted the suggestion of the Hungarian proposal that fellowships be targeted to recipients working in teams to deliver outputs such as tentative lists, nominations and state of conservation reports that are directly relevant to the priorities established for the implementation of the Convention.
4. Based on the Centre's suggestions, the General Conference recommended that the statutory organs of the World Heritage Convention review and analyse the outputs generated by the World Heritage Fund-financed fellowships and explore ways and means of redesigning the criteria for awarding such fellowships in order to accommodate the proposal made by the Hungarian Delegation. The General Conference invited the Director-General to submit the findings of the review and analysis and recommendations for re-directing the award of fellowships from the World Heritage Fund to meet the characteristics of a World Heritage Fellowships Programme as proposed by the Hungarian Delegation to the autumn session of the Executive Board of UNESCO in 2000.
5. Since the conclusion of the last session of the General Conference in November 1999, an evaluation of international assistance provided from the World Heritage Fund has been undertaken by UNESCO's Central Evaluation Unit and the French Company C3E. The findings of this evaluation are submitted to the Bureau in document WHC-2000/CONF.202/13. The findings of the evaluation and the response of the Bureau and the World Heritage Committee to the recommendations of the evaluation will have important implications for the

Centre's ability to design and develop a World Heritage Fellowship Programme along the lines suggested by Hungary. For example, one of the the conclusions of the evaluation document WHC-2000/CONF.202/13 (see Section 5.1.1 E) observes that the operational objectives as set out in the Operational Guidelines can lead to confusion because they mix the type of intervention (e.g. preparatory assistance, training) with the types of beneficiaries. One of the recommendations of the evaluation of international assistance calls upon the Committee to seek, in the medium term, a management system in accordance with the objectives to be attained in the frame of three situations that require assistance: properties to be added on to the World Heritage List; properties to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and other properties on the World Heritage List.

6. The Bureau's consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of the document WHC-200/CONF.202/13 is therefore a necessary condition for the Centre to know the future strategies, priorities and categories of international assistance and to find ways and means to accommodate the Hungarian proposal to establish a World Heritage Fellowship Programme.
7. The Centre will take into consideration the outcome of the Bureau's discussions on document WHC-2000/CONF.202/13, and other relevant documents and evaluations such as that conducted by ICCROM on training funded by the World Heritage Fund. It will prepare a more detailed paper on the feasibility of implementing the Hungarian proposal to create a World Heritage Fellowship Programme and submit it to the consideration of the twenty fourth session of the Committee in Cairns, Australia (27 November – 2 December 2000).