

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee
First session

Paris, 8 and 9 June 1978

Working document

Introduction

1. At its first session (Paris, 27 June - 1 July 1977), the World Heritage Committee decided that its Bureau which, according to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, consists of the Chairman, the four Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the Committee, would meet on 8 and 9 June 1978. The Committee also decided that the International Centre for Conservation (ICCROM), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) would be invited to attend. The present meeting has been convened in fulfilment of the Committee's decision.
2. The Committee specifically entrusted the Bureau with the task of deciding which nominations to the World Heritage List submitted by States Parties would be transmitted to the second session of the Committee.
3. The Director General proposes that the Bureau examine, in addition, certain questions which would facilitate the work of the forthcoming session of the Committee.
4. The questions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above are set out in the Provisional Agenda and are described in the present document.

Review of nominations to the World Heritage List and of requests for technical co-operation received from States Parties (item 2 of the Provisional Agenda)

5. Copies of the nominations to the World Heritage List and the requests for technical co-operation received from States Parties are transmitted to members of the Bureau under cover of document CC-78/CONF.009/3.

6. The Bureau is called upon to decide which nominations should go forward to the World Heritage Committee for consideration at its second session. The Bureau may also wish to make recommendations to the Committee on the requests for technical co-operation to be examined by the Committee at its second session.

Study of the terms and conditions of preparatory assistance (item 3 of the Provisional Agenda)

7. At its first session, the World Heritage Committee decided that technical co-operation would be provided under the World Heritage Fund to States Parties in preparing :

i) their nominations to the World Heritage List; and
ii) their requests for international assistance,
and that this co-operation would take the form of expert services or equipment.

8. Several States Parties have indicated that this preparatory work could be carried out by their own nationals particularly if some financial assistance were provided to meet possible travel costs and other expenses which might occur in this connexion.

9. The Director General proposes that the Bureau examine the possibility of granting financial assistance to States Parties for the preparation of their nominations to the World Heritage List and of their requests for technical co-operation, within the limits provided by the Convention which stipulates in Article 22(f) that assistance may take the form of "the granting, in exceptional cases and for special reasons, of non-repayable subsidies". The Bureau may wish to examine the possibility of adopting a procedure whereby the Secretariat would be authorized to determine the exact amount to be made available in each case, provided that :

- a) these amounts correspond to those normally granted under Unesco's regulations;
b) the total of these amounts do not exceed \$50.000; and
c) a report be presented to the Committee on the amounts granted.

10. Details on preparatory assistance provided under the Fund are given in document CC-78/CONF.009/4.

Consideration of a draft text of a standard agreement between the World Heritage Committee and States receiving technical co-operation (item 4 of the Provisional Agenda)

11. Article 26 of the Convention provides that "The World Heritage Committee and the recipient State shall define in the agreement they conclude the conditions in which a programme or project for which international assistance under the terms of this Convention is provided, shall be carried out".

12. During the course of its first session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft text of the standard agreement. In accordance with this request, the Secretariat has prepared a draft text of the standard agreement which is to be found in document CC-78/CONF.009/5.

13. The Bureau may wish to examine the draft text and to formulate its recommendations to the Committee thereon.

Examination of the form and periodicity of publication of the World Heritage List, the List of World Heritage in Danger and the list of properties for which technical co-operation is granted. (item 5 of the Provisional Agenda)

14. Under the terms of the Convention, the Committee is to establish, to keep up-to-date and publish the following three lists :

- A : the "World Heritage List" - an up-to-date list is to be distributed at least every two years (Article 11(2) of the Convention);
- B : the "List of World Heritage in Danger" which the Committee is to establish, keep up-to-date and publish "whenever circumstances shall so require"; according to Article 11(4) of the Convention this is to be a list of the "property appearing in the World Heritage List for the conservation of which major operations are necessary and for which assistance has been requested under this Convention. This list shall contain an estimate of the cost of such operations. The list may include only such property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage as is threatened by serious and specific dangers. The Committee may at any time, in case of urgent need, make a new entry in the List of World Heritage in Danger and publicise such entry immediately"; and
- C : a "list of property for which international assistance has been granted" (Article 13(5) of the Convention).

15. In the working document for the first session of the World Heritage Committee, the Secretariat proposed that the above-mentioned list C should contain a short description of :

- (a) all the properties for which international assistance has been granted; and
- (b) the kind of assistance given and the result thereof.

16. If this proposal is accepted the List of World Heritage in Danger could then refer only to those properties which, although they might have received some assistance from the Committee, nevertheless remain in danger and still require assistance, which could possibly be financed, either wholly or in part, from other sources.

17. The Bureau may wish to consider the information that should be included in the World Heritage List : the Secretariat proposes that, in addition to the name and details on the location of the property, a brief description and justification for its inclusion (i.e. its "outstanding universal value") should be given.

18. With respect to publication of the lists, the Secretariat would like to put forward the following proposal for consideration by the Bureau : the three lists could be published, in English and in French, on offset and could be updated after each session of the Committee by an addendum to each list; revised lists, incorporating all additions, could be published every four years.

19. The Bureau may wish to consider the above proposals and to formulate its recommendations to the Committee thereon.

Other matters

20. An up-to-date statement on contributions received for the World Heritage Fund will be made available to members of the Bureau at the meeting, as well as an up-to-date list of States having ratified or accepted the Convention.