UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee

Fourteenth session

Paris, 11-14 June 1990

Room XVI

ITEM 12 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: PREPARATION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

During its thirteenth session, the Committee raised the prospect of commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Convention in 1992 and requested the Secretariat to make proposals thereon for the present Bureau session.

The Secretarait has held some preliminary consultations and proposes that this commemoration be organised along the following lines.

An evaluation of the overall implementation of the Convention could be undertaken with the aim of defining directions for the future: a document could be elaborated under the responsibility of the Secretarait and presented to the special expanded session of the Committee in 1992. In parallel, promotional events could be held in the States Parties thoughout 1992 and a media event organised at Unesco at the time of the Committee session.

I. EVALUATION OF THE CONVENTION

This should be both an external and internal exercise (i.e. also calling on fresh, outside views) and involve States Parties as well as the Secretariat and the advisory organisations (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM). It is therefore proposed that States Parties will be requested to draw up a balance sheet of the implementation of the Convention in their respective countries. Some case studies on the application of the Convention could be presented.

At the international level, the evaluation should cover the following main points:

- the elaboration of the World Heritage List (representativity, gaps, etc), using the global study as a basis by extending it to natural properties;
- the question of the universality of the Convention: States which are not yet Parties to the Convention, States Parties which have not yet nominated sites, and remedial measures. (In this connection it should be noted that the Director-General of Unesco has launched an appeal to all States which are not yet Parties to consider adhering to the Convention before 1992);

- the efficiency of the monitoring system -- which will probably emerge as one of the fundamental elements for the future of the Convention -- and the measures which may be used by the Committee (use of the procedure to inscribe properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, delisting properties which no longer meet the criteria);
 - international assistance provided through the World Heritage Fund;
- the promotion policy carried out by the Secretarait and the States Parties.

The Secretarait proposes, if the Bureau agrees, to send a circular letter to States parties requesting them to take part in this excercise during 1991. Regional workshops could also be organised if States Parties consider that they would be useful.

II. PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

The Secretariat also proposes that States Parties be invited to organize promotional activities on the Convention during 1992. Activities at the national level could include the organisation of World Heritage exhibitions and seminars, competitions for young people, television documentaries, events at World Heritage sites, special issues of stamps, press campaigns, etc. It will be indispensable that a focal point be designated at the national level in order to enable the Secretariat to provide its support.

In addition, the Secretarait proposes to organise an event at the time of the Committee session that would have wide international coverage by the media. A series of television ads in different countries could announce this event. The organisation of a large scale international exhibition is also being studied: States Parties will be requested to give their opinion whether it would be possible to organise an exhibition of this type which could not be undertaken without their support.

More detailed proposals of these different questions will be provided to the Committee at its next session.