

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONSECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, 24 November 1978

Summary Record

1. The Second General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) met in Paris on 24 November 1978.
2. Of the 40 States which were Parties to the Convention as at 24 November 1978, and thus had the right to vote, the following 34 States were represented at the meeting :

Algeria	Jordan
Argentina	Morocco
Australia	Nepal
Bolivia	Niger
Brazil	Nigeria
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Pakistan
Costa Rica	Panama
Cyprus	Poland
Ecuador	Senegal
Egypt	Sudan
Ethiopia	Switzerland
France	Tunisia
Federal Republic of Germany	United Republic of Tanzania
Iran	United States of America
Iraq	Yugoslavia
Italy	Zaire

3. Representatives of the following States also participated, as observers, in the General Assembly : Belgium, Chile, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, the Holy See, Indonesia, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Romania, San Marino, and Spain. Eight International organizations including the three advisory organizations to the World Heritage Committee, namely 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) also attended the meeting in an observer capacity.
4. The list of the participants at the meeting is given in the annex to this document.
5. The Secretariat of the meeting was assumed by the Secretariat of Unesco.

6. Mr. Maknanin Makagiansar, Assistant Director-General for Culture and Communication of Unesco, opened the meeting, and, on behalf of the Director General and himself, welcomed the delegates of States Parties and the other participants. He underlined the essential rôle of the Convention for the work of Unesco. Its objectives were, on the one hand, to preserve the testimony of man's creative genius and of the rich resources of nature, and, on the other hand, to help to improve the quality of life, and to promote cultural identity. Mr. Makagiansar then went on to review the progress achieved since the first General Assembly with respect to the implementation of the Convention, noting with pleasure the increase in the number of States who had become Parties to the Convention. He also informed the General Assembly of the work undertaken by the Committee since its inception. After expressing the hope that other States would join those who had already ratified or accepted the Convention, he reminded the Assembly of the two principal tasks before it, namely the election of members of the Committee, and the determination of the amount of the contribution to the World Heritage Fund, as foreseen in Article 15, paragraph 1, of the Convention.
7. The General Assembly then adopted its Rules of Procedure and elected by acclamation Mr. Panisa A. Pavlovic as Chairman, the representatives of Ecuador and Norway as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Tidjani Mamet (Niger) as Rapporteur.
8. The agenda of the meeting was approved unanimously by the General Assembly which devoted two sessions to the election of members of the Committee and to the determination of the amount of the contribution to the World Heritage Fund.
9. Twenty-one States Parties had presented their candidature for election to the World Heritage Committee : Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ethiopia, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Senegal, Sudan, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire.
10. The Chairman explained to the General Assembly the procedure to be followed for the election of members of the Committee. As a result of the increase in the number of States having ratified or accepted the Convention, the number of members of the Committee would be increased from 15 to 21. It would therefore be necessary to elect, on the one hand, five members to replace the five members whose term of office was to expire at the end of the 20th session of the General Conference and, on the other hand, six new members whose term of office would be decided by drawing lots. The term of office of two of these States would terminate at the end of the 21st session of the General Conference, that of two other States at the end of the 22nd session of the General Conference, and that of the two remaining States at the end of the 23rd session of the General Conference. The choice by lot would be undertaken by the President of the General Conference, in conformity with Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.
11. Some delegates referred to the terms of the Convention whereby "any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee". In the

light of this provision, the delegates of the Federal Republic of Germany and of Costa Rica withdrew their candidature. They explained to the Assembly that the delay in paying their contributions was due to budgetary reasons, but that their governments would take the necessary measures to make the payments very shortly.

12. Several delegates then broached the problem of geographical distribution, making reference to Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention, according to which "Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world". One delegate proposed, in view of the practice followed in the elections to other bodies of Unesco, and given the distribution of the 40 States Parties to the Convention among the electoral groups set up for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board, that the 21 seats on the Committee be attributed as follows : 5 seats to Group I, 2 to Group II, 4 to Group III, 3 to Group IV and 7 to Group V. This proposal gave rise to a wide exchange of views on the principles which should govern the distribution of the seats. Some speakers suggested a different distribution among these same groups, or the formation of different groups, while others observed that the procedure could not be the same for elections involving the 145 Member States of Unesco as for the election of members to the Committee, since the Convention had, to date, only 40 States Parties. Many delegates stressed the need to remain flexible, since the number of States Parties was likely to increase, and it would be dangerous to establish rigid principles which would create a precedent for future elections.

13. Taking into account the wish of all those present to reach a balanced geographical distribution, and in order to allow the delegations time to arrive at an agreement, the Chairman proposed that the meeting be suspended. Since it had not been possible to reach an agreement, he suggested the delegates should proceed to vote by secret ballot, bearing in mind the moral obligation to achieve an equitable distribution. In order to help to clarify the situation, the delegate of Poland withdrew his country's candidature, in favour of that of Bulgaria.

14. Other questions concerning more specifically the voting procedure itself were raised and, in particular, as to whether the five States members whose term of office was due to expire at the end of the 20th session of the General Conference could be re-elected to the new Committee. The Deputy Assistant Director-General (Operational Activities) of the Sector of Culture and Communication replied that there was nothing in the Convention that was contrary thereto. One delegate, with the support of many other delegations, proposed that the Assembly should proceed to a single vote for the eleven members to be elected. The five candidates gaining the largest number of votes would be considered as elected in replacement of the five retiring members, and the six candidates with the next highest number of votes would be considered as elected to the six new seats, and their terms of office would consequently be determined by lot. This proposal was accepted by the Assembly.

15. The Chairman then appointed the delegates of Costa Rica and Egypt as tellers, and the General Assembly proceeded to the vote. The results of the vote, which the Chairman announced, were as follows :

Number of States Parties present and voting : 34
Number of valid voting papers : 34
Number of votes obtained by the States
having obtained the required majority
(18 votes) :

France	29	Bulgaria	21
Panama	26	Sudan	20
Italy	23	Senegal	19
Pakistan	23	Switzerland	19
Argentina	22	Algeria	18
		Nepal	18

16. The five States having obtained the greatest number of votes were declared elected by the Chairman in replacement of the five States whose term of office was to expire at the end of the 20th session of the General Conference. The next six States mentioned above were declared elected by the Chairman as new members of the Committee, with terms of office to be determined by drawing lots. As a result of the choice by lot undertaken by the President of the General Conference on 28 November 1978, the terms of office of the six new members were fixed as follows : Algeria and Sudan until the end of the 21st session of the General Conference, Bulgaria and Nepal until the end of the 22nd session of the General Conference, and Senegal and Switzerland until the end of the 23rd session.

17. The General Assembly then considered Item 7 of the Agenda, and decided unanimously that the amount of the contribution foreseen in Article 16, paragraph 1, of the Convention would be fixed at 1% of the contribution of States Parties to the Regular Budget of the Organization for 1979-1980. In reply to a question raised by one of the delegates, the Deputy Assistant Director-General (Operational Activities) of the Sector of Culture and Communication, explained that the amounts of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund indicated in the annex to document CC-78/CONF.011/4 had been calculated on the basis of the provisional budgetary ceiling of 303 million which had been adopted by the General Conference. These amounts were therefore provisional and subject to adjustment in the light of the final figure which would be adopted for the Regular Programme of the Organization.

18. The observer from Guatemala announced to the General Assembly that his government had decided to ratify the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and that he was depositing that day with the Secretariat two nominations for inclusion in the World Heritage List relating to Tikal National Park and the Old City of Guatemala.

19. One delegate underlined the importance of the work already accomplished by the Committee and invited the delegations to take note of two fundamentally important documents which could serve as a basis for future action to be taken. These documents were the "Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention" and the Report of the second session of the Committee held in Washington.

20. The representatives of the three advisory organizations to the Committee took the floor. The representative of IUCN recalled the hope expressed by members of his organization at the last IUCN General Assembly, namely that the concerns of the cultural heritage and the natural heritage should be represented on the Committee in a balanced way. The representative of ICOMOS was gratified to note the increase in the number of States Parties to the Convention and offered the assistance of her organization to all Member States in implementing their programmes. The representative of ICCROM proposed the assistance of his organization to the States Parties in connection with research projects and the training of staff.

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. Représentants des Etats parties à la Convention /
Representatives of States Parties to the Convention

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Observers from States not Parties to the Convention

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