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# World Heritage

# 36 COM

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

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

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Thirty-sixth session**

**Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation  
24 June - 6 July 2012**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports**

**10B: Progress report on the follow-up of the first cycle and preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America**

**SUMMARY**

This document contains a summary of the activities undertaken for the follow-up to the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and provides information on the proposed strategy for the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in the Europe and North America Region.

The internet platform designed for the implementation and follow-up of the second cycle is available at the following web address:  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/594/>

**Draft Decision: 36 COM 10B**, see Part II.

## I. PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. At its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Committee approved the report on the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting for North America and at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting for Europe. Subsequently, steps were taken to implement the World Heritage Committee's Decisions **30 COM 11 A.1** and **30 COM 11 A.2**, and reports were submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 35th (UNESCO, 2011) sessions.
2. Since 2011, a number of sub-regional meetings have been organized in European sub-regions, in cooperation between States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies focusing on the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise.
3. Following the workshop for the Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe sub-region (Prague, Czech Republic, 26-27 May 2011), a meeting for the Mediterranean Europe sub-region was hosted by Malta (Valetta, 21-24 September 2011) and a meeting for the Western Europe and Nordic-Baltic Europe sub-regions was hosted by Iceland (Reykjavik, 18-21 October 2011). These meetings were organized with the purpose of training the National Focal Points in the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and planning the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise. As a follow-up to the workshops and meetings, the National Focal Points are expected to organize national workshops/seminars and act as trainers in further seminars and workshops with national authorities and site managers, in order to facilitate the Periodic Reporting exercise.
4. The States Parties of Canada and the United States of America have also organized national consultations and workshops to discuss the forthcoming Periodic Reporting exercise.
5. A workshop on the Periodic Reporting process for World Heritage site managers of the South-Eastern Europe region (15-17 May 2012, Sibiu, Romania) including a capacity-building component on the management of cultural World Heritage properties, was hosted by the Romanian authorities and co-organized with the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM.
6. In addition, informal Periodic Reporting meetings of European and North American States Parties took place on the occasion of the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee and the 18th General Assembly of States Parties to exchange information and discuss priorities regarding the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise. During the meeting in November 2011, the World Heritage Centre presented the Road Map for the second cycle prepared during the meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland.
7. Several States Parties have also announced their intentions to host Periodic Reporting meetings during the process of the Periodic Reporting exercise: Germany (Western, Nordic-Baltic and Mediterranean Europe, Berlin, 19-20 September 2012), Georgia (Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, autumn of 2012), Italy (Mediterranean Europe, Florence, September 2013), Azerbaijan (Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, 2013) and Luxemburg (Western Europe and Nordic-Baltic Europe, 2013/2014).
8. Considering the high number of sites in Europe and North America, the lack of resources and the difficulty of involving all site managers in the Periodic Reporting preparatory meetings as in other regions of the world, the World Heritage Centre envisages to develop and apply a "training of trainers" approach, particularly with

regard to meetings of the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe sub-region, for which capacity-building was identified as a priority according to the outcomes of the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting. All Focal Points who have attended preparatory meetings will be requested to transmit the knowledge acquired to the site managers in their respective countries, by organizing national follow-up seminars and workshops.

9. The website for the European Periodic Reporting exercise is being constantly updated and is accessible at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=153>. It includes relevant information on recent follow-up meetings, including agendas, lists of participants and reports. Furthermore, a user-friendly web platform is being developed by the World Heritage Centre to present all relevant information in a structured and targeted manner with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Periodic Reporting exercise. The platform is expected to be functional for the launching of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America in July 2012.
10. On the basis of the experience acquired by other regions during the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, and in view of the high number of sites and the challenge of training all site managers in the region for the preparation of Section II of the questionnaire, the World Heritage Centre is preparing, with the collaboration of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF), a handbook. It will outline the objectives of Periodic Reporting, its utility for the management and protection of World Heritage properties and provide further comprehensive information to facilitate completing Section II of the questionnaire. Further collaboration with the NWHF in the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise included the preparation of meetings.
11. In 2011, the World Heritage Centre's Europe and North America Unit launched a study on World Heritage training and capacity-building in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, with a view to elaborating an integrated and targeted strategy addressing the priority needs in training and capacity building for the preservation of World Heritage properties, to be finalized in the second quarter of 2012. The strategy will be developed in the perspective of the preparation of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting and will build on the recommendations of the first Periodic Reporting cycle and on the World Heritage capacity-building strategy approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011).
12. The World Heritage Centre would like to draw the attention of the States Parties to the fact that it does not have adequate financial and human resources for the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the region of Europe and North America. As compared to other regions, the Europe and North America Unit does not benefit from extra-budgetary assistance. Currently, no funds are allocated by the Regular Budget for the Europe and North America Region and the funds allocated from the World Heritage Fund are not sufficient to ensure the preparation of the Periodic Reporting exercise, bearing in mind that it concerns almost half of all World Heritage properties and that capacity-building is an outstanding issue for many States Parties and properties in the sub-regions.
13. In this regard, the World Heritage Centre reiterates its gratitude to the Netherlands, which has already made a contribution, and wishes to thank Andorra, Monaco, and Portugal for their financial contributions made since the 35th session, as well as the Flemish authorities for their commitment to support the Europe and North America Unit in the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in 2012, and recommends to the Committee to invite other States Parties to contribute with financial or human resources.

## II. DRAFT DECISION

### **Draft Decision: 36 COM 10B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11A.1**, **30 COM 11A.2**, **31 COM 11A.1**, **31 COM 11A.2**, **32 COM 11D**, **34 COM 10B.3** and **35 COM 10C.2** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 35th (UNESCO, 2011) sessions, respectively,
3. Takes note of the follow-up activities to the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the region of Europe and North America and the activities in preparation of the launching of its second cycle;
4. Thanks the Maltese authorities for having hosted the preparatory meeting for Mediterranean Europe in Valetta from 21 to 24 September 2011 and the Icelandic authorities for having hosted the preparatory meeting for Nordic, Baltic and Western Europe in Reykjavik from 18 to 21 October 2011;
5. Also thanks the Nordic World Heritage Foundation for its collaboration in the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, including preparation of meetings as well as relevant tools;
6. Expresses its sincere appreciation to the German authorities for having proposed to host a meeting for Nordic, Baltic, Western and Mediterranean Europe in Berlin from 19 to 20 September 2012, the Georgian authorities for having proposed to host a meeting for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in autumn 2012, the Italian authorities for having proposed to host a meeting for Mediterranean Europe in Florence in September 2013 and the authorities of Luxembourg for having proposed to host a meeting for Nordic, Baltic and Western Europe in 2013/2014;
7. Welcomes the initiative of the World Heritage Centre to prepare a study on World Heritage training and capacity-building in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, with a view to elaborating an integrated and targeted strategy addressing the priority needs in training and capacity building for the preservation of World Heritage properties;
8. Commends the States Parties which have submitted draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value before the official launching of the Periodic Reporting exercise as requested in Decision **35 COM 10C.2** and urges the States Parties to submit the pending retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value as soon as possible;
9. Reiterates its gratitude to the States Parties of Andorra, Monaco, Portugal and The Netherlands who have made financial contributions to the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Europe and North America, acknowledges with thanks the pledge by the Flemish Government to financially support the exercise and encourages further support and collaboration for the future;

10. Also takes note of the Road Map developed at the Reykjavik meeting in 2011 and requests the States Parties to make an effort towards a coordinated approach for its implementation;
11. Decides to launch the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in the Europe and North America region and also reiterates that it will take place on a two-year basis (North America, Western, Nordic and Baltic Europe sub-regions, for the first year, and Mediterranean, Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, for the second year) provided that a report on the Periodic Reporting exercise for North America will be presented at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014, and an overall report on the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe will be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015;
12. Also welcomes the creation of the web platform for the follow-up and implementation of the Periodic Reporting exercise and also encourages the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other concerned partners to explore all the opportunities that this tool can provide for the joint implementation of the exercise;
13. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to report back to the World Heritage Committee on progress achieved in the Periodic Reporting exercise at its 37th session in 2013.