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Educational, Scientific and  
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Организация  
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联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

# World Heritage

## 20 GA

**WHC-15/20.GA/10**

Paris, 5 October 2015

Original: English

### UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

### TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters  
18-20 November 2015

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Ad hoc working group on working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nominations: Follow-up to Decision 39 COM 13A**

**10. Ad hoc working group on working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nominations: Follow-up to Decision 39 COM 13A**

#### SUMMARY

By Decision **38 COM 13**, the World Heritage Committee decided to establish an ad-hoc working group to examine the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination.

The outcomes of the ad hoc working group have been presented to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in June 2015. The Committee decided to extend the mandate of the ad hoc working group and to suggest that the 20th General Assembly of States Parties, in November 2015, discuss the recommendations of the ad hoc working group.

This document is presented pursuant to Decisions **39 COM 11** and **39 COM 13A**

**Draft Resolution:** *After having examined this document the General Assembly may wish to adopt an appropriate Resolution.*

## I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee noted that the growing number of nominations and inscriptions to the World Heritage List had increased not only the workload but also the financial burdens faced by Advisory Bodies. It further recognized the growing need by a significant number of States Parties for technical assistance and support in the preparation of nominations as well as during the inscription process.
2. The Committee took stock of the present state of the evaluation and consultation process between the Advisory Bodies and States Parties. However, while appreciating the high level of expertise and work carried out by Advisory Bodies to meet the World Heritage Committee's expanding needs, it observed during the 38th session the factual errors in the evaluations prepared by the Advisory Bodies.
3. Consequently, the Committee underlined that a consistent application of the *Operational Guidelines* and the *Convention* was essential and it called upon the Advisory Bodies to consult and have a dialogue with all concerned States Parties during the course of the evaluation of nominations, in order to enhance overall transparency and to optimize future decision-making by the World Heritage Committee.
4. Furthermore, the Committee, by Decision **38 COM 13**, established an ad-hoc working group composed of, in principle, two members from each regional group, at the invitation of Germany, to meet inter-sessionally to examine the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nominations and to formulate its recommendations thereon.
5. This ad hoc working group held several meetings under the leadership of Germany during the course of 2014-2015, as per Decision **38 COM 13**.
6. The outcomes of the ad-hoc working group have been presented to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015) (see <http://whc.unesco.org/document/137071> and <http://whc.unesco.org/document/137072>) which welcomed its reflections and recommendations with regard to the working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination. The Committee also welcomed the revisions of the *Operational Guidelines*, proposed by the Working Group on the Revision of the *Operational Guidelines* established during its 39th session, which reflect the recommendations of the ad hoc working group.
7. After an in-depth debate, the Committee took Decision **39 COM 13A** and **39 COM 11** by which it decided to extend the mandate of the ad hoc working group composed of, in principle, two members from each regional group, and one extra regional group representative who is not a member of the World Heritage Committee to be convened by Turkey, to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. The Committee also decided to suggest that the 20th General Assembly of States Parties discuss the recommendations of the ad hoc working group in order for the latter to submit its final recommendations to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016 for a decision.
8. In case further information is available before the 20 th General Assembly, an addendum to this Document will be prepared.
9. The General Assembly may wish to take an appropriate Resolution on this subject after examination of the present Document.

## II. DRAFT RESOLUTION

### **Draft Resolution: 20 GA 10**

*The General Assembly,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/20 GA/10,

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