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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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World Heritage

20 GA

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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

SUMMARY RECORDS

RESUME DES TRAVAUX

FIRST DAY – Wednesday, 18 November 2015
FIRST MEETING
10 a.m. –1 p.m.
Chairperson : H.E. Mr. MORAES CABRAL (Portugal)

ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

1A. Opening of the General Assembly by the Director-General

No document

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** welcomed the participants to the meeting and gave the floor to the **Assistant Director-General for Culture**, who opened the meeting on behalf of the Director-General.

Le Sous-Directeur général souhaite la bienvenue à tous les participants à la 20^e session de l'Assemblée générale des États parties de la Convention du patrimoine mondial et présente la nouvelle Directrice du Centre du patrimoine mondial, Mme Mechtild Rössler.

Il précise que la Conférence générale, encore en cours, vient de célébrer le 70^e anniversaire de l'UNESCO et a pris de nombreuses décisions importantes pour la Convention du patrimoine mondial. Il souligne en particulier, l'approbation d'une *Journée de célébration du patrimoine mondial africain* fixée au 5 mai, ainsi que le rapport sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur le paysage urbain historique, produit du travail et des débats du Comité du patrimoine mondial et de l'Assemblée générale.

Il précise de plus qu'une très importante décision a été prise pour le renforcement de l'action de l'UNESCO pour la protection du patrimoine culturel dans des pays en crise, surtout au Moyen-Orient, mais également dans le cas de désastres naturels. Il souligne que cette recommandation sera un point très important de réflexion pour le Comité et l'Assemblée générale mais aussi pour l'ensemble de l'UNESCO et des Organisations qui travaillent pour la protection du patrimoine dans les années à venir. Il indique que, même si la recommandation ne donne pas toutes les réponses qui sont nécessaires pour avoir une intervention efficace, c'est un bon point de départ car cela donne à l'Organisation un mandat très clair d'intervention, d'amélioration de ses outils et de coordination de l'action internationale dans ce domaine.

Le Sous-Directeur général indique qu'une nouvelle recommandation sur les musées et les collections a également été approuvée. Celle-ci est d'intérêt pour la communauté du patrimoine, car elle modernise la vision, la conception du patrimoine dans les musées.

Le Sous-Directeur général précise que la Conférence générale a donné de nombreux résultats pour le patrimoine et mentionne l'importance pour l'Assemblée générale de travailler « en tandem » avec la Conférence générale, organe suprême décisionnel de l'UNESCO.

The Assistant Director-General indicated that it was of common agreement that the World Heritage Convention has a lot to say and a bigger role to play in achieving the goals of

protection of heritage and protection of cultural diversity of mankind. He stated that the Convention holds that even in front of violent extremism and what has been called a cultural cleansing. He underlined that the universality of common heritage has to prevail, and that all agree that the Convention is not just a simple legal instrument, but a tool that provides concrete measures to protect heritage, to insure that the traces of all history and cultures are preserved for the future generations.

The Assistant Director-General thanked also the World Heritage Committee for strongly supporting UNESCO's efforts in safeguarding heritage from violent extremists. He referred to the Bonn Declaration adopted by the International Community to mobilize stakeholders and to demonstrate our solidarity and support for countries where cultural and natural heritage are in danger. He indicated that, apart from being targeted by extremists, heritage sites are also at risk from natural disasters and that this year has witnessed devastating consequences of many natural disasters for the communities resulting in the loss of lives, homes, livelihoods and of course, heritage. He underlined that the aftermath of earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes also have affected many World Heritage properties. He recalled that in March 2015, the only World Heritage property of Vanuatu, the Chief Roi Mata's Domain, was badly damaged by a cyclone, and that at similar time, the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015 caused extensive damage to historic monuments and buildings in the Kathmandu Valley. He recalled also that just one month ago another earthquake hit Afghanistan and Pakistan resulting in terrible damage to a number of significant cultural heritage sites such as the Takht-i-Bahi or Taxila, two World Heritage properties. He extended, in the name of UNESCO, his deepest sympathies to the governments and to the people of these Member States that have been affected by the catastrophes and commended the relevant authorities for having taken the steps to reduce damage to Heritage sites during these emergencies situations.

The Assistant General for Culture called on the International Community to continue assisting the safeguarding of World Heritage sites from extremism and natural disasters, to lend a helping hand in such times of crisis so that the ties that bind us may be stronger than the forces that threaten to tear us apart.

He underlined that, as Member States have reiterated over the past few weeks, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be an important part of UNESCO's work in the years to come. He recalled that the Agenda 2030 was approved just short while ago in September this year as a follow-up to the very long discussions that took place over the past three or four years for the reshaping of the Millennium Development Goals that were transformed into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. He underlined that the General Conference took note of the fact that, for the first time, issues related to culture and heritage are represented in this very wide Agenda comprising 17 goals and almost 200 targets and that many of them reflect the campaign UNESCO has supported in the past years to have culture and heritage reflected as substantial part of sustainable development strategies. The Assistant Director-General indicated that this represents a window for the future of the Convention, which has found a very clear frame in especially Goal 11, as even the target 11.4 makes specific reference to the protection of World culture and natural heritage.

He noticed that UNESCO was fully mobilized to implement this Agenda in all its forms, mostly in the Education and Science Sectors, but also a lot in the Culture Sector, moving toward many actions, the first one being the active participation of the Organization to the first post-2015 event that will take place in October 2016: the third Habitat Conference organized by the United Nations. He stated that, given the increasing threats of World Heritage around the world - but also tremendous potential for heritage to celebrate the diversity of cultures and values - it was important to maintain very high the flag of the

Convention.

He noted that one of the aspects of the universal credibility of the Convention, which lies in the composition of the World Heritage Committee, is that the current session will be the first one to use the newly revised Rules of Procedure that has been adopted by the States Parties in November 2014. He recalled that the aim of the revision was to achieve an equitable, geographic and cultural representation on the Committee.

The Assistant Director-General indicated that the General Assembly will also discuss the financial situation of the Convention, which during the past years, has been quite restrained, including cutting on posts and programmes. He underlined that this was a UNESCO-wide situation, but which has made the Secretariat suffered a lot from this compression of expenditures. He recalled that it was important to discuss the situation, as States parties may have new ideas and new proposals in order to increase the contributions and to increase the financial sustainability of the World Heritage Convention.

The Assistant Director-General took also this opportunity to acknowledge the work that has been done to make the World Heritage more geographically balanced and credible. Hence, he noted that the General Assembly will examine the follow-up of the Report of the External Auditor on the Global Strategy as well as a report from the *ad hoc* working group to improve the evaluation and decision-making process of nominations. He welcomed the discussions in this sense, which are reaffirming the commitment of all the States parties to uphold the spirit of the Convention including to encourage greater inclusion and celebrate all the cultures of the world.

In closing, the Assistant Director-General reiterated his thanks to all those who have helped to put the Convention into action: the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies, the NGOs, Observers, as well as the local governments and the communities for the dedication they have shown toward our common cause. He noted that this was the best expression that could be received to celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

1B. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the General Assembly

No document

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 1B**

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** indicated that, as per Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly has to elect a Chairperson, one or more Vice-chairpersons and a Rapporteur. She indicated that the list of Chairpersons, Vice-chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the General Assembly since 1991, included in Information document 1B, was at the disposal of the General Assembly.

The Delegation of **Brazil** proposed **H.E. Mr. MORAES CABRAL (Portugal)** as Chairperson of the 20th session of the General Assembly.

The Delegation of **Angola** supported this proposal.

This proposal was approved by acclamation.

On proposals by the Delegations of **Qatar and Cambodia, Palestine and China** were proposed as Vice-Chairpersons. These proposals were approved by acclamation.

The Delegation of Colombia presented the candidature of **Mr. Marcelo Dantas Da Costa (Brazil)** as Rapporteur of the 20th General Assembly. This proposal was approved by acclamation.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 1B** was adopted.

Item 1 of the Agenda was closed.

ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OF THE TIMETABLE OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2A. Adoption of the Agenda of the 20th session of the General Assembly

2B. Adoption of the Timetable of the 20th session of the General Assembly

Documents: *WHC-15/20.GA/2A*
 WHC-15/20.GA /INF.2A
 WHC-15/20.GA/2B

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 2A**

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 2B**

The **Chairperson** gave the floor to the **Director of the World Heritage Centre** who briefly introduced documents 2A and 2B.

Regarding **Item 2A**, the Delegation of **Palestine** proposed to add an item on the Agenda concerning "Other Business". This proposal was accepted.

En ce qui concerne **le point 2B**, le Président informe l'Assemblée générale que, si les travaux avancent rapidement, des ajustements seront effectués au calendrier de la session et demande aux Etats parties d'être attentifs au déroulement des travaux afin de ne pas être surpris par d'éventuels avancements d'examen de points.

The Draft Resolutions **20 GA 2A** and **20 GA 2B** were adopted.

Item 2 of the Agenda was closed.

**ITEM 3 REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNESCO, 2013)**

No Document

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 3**

Le Président informe l'Assemblée générale que, malheureusement, **Mr Al-Lawati** (Oman), Rapporteur de la 19^e session du Comité du patrimoine mondial, n'a pu être présent aujourd'hui et qu'il a souhaité que le Délégué d'Oman donne lecture de son Rapport.

The Delegation of **Oman** presented the Report of the Rapporteur of the 19th session of the General Assembly of States Parties on his behalf.

The Report recalled that the 19th session of the General Assembly was held from 19-21 November 2013 at UNESCO Headquarters and that it adopted a total of 12 Resolutions pertaining to the financial, administrative and conceptual aspects of the Convention, among which was the election of new members to the World Heritage Committee for a four-year mandate (Jamaica, Kuwait, Finland, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Turkey and Viet Nam). The main issues of the session focused on the need for the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, contribution to the World Heritage Fund and the follow-up to the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List. Following the result of the election, many States Parties expressed regrets and concerns that the Africa region had not been adequately represented on the Committee. This led to the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly to insure more equitable, geographical and cultural representation on the World Heritage Committee for which an informal drafting group was established. Further to this meeting, a Resolution was adopted to form an open-ended working group to make a proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure which will be decided on at the present session of the General Assembly for better representation on the World Heritage Committee. Ms Vera Lacoëuilhe of Saint Lucia has chaired the First Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly which worked on this question.

The Report also underlined that, in accordance with the provision of Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention, the percentage for the calculation of the amount contribution to be paid by the States Parties to the World Heritage Fund was set at the ceiling of 1%. However, in order to insure the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund, the General Assembly also recommended seven options for States Parties willing to make an unrestricted, supplementary voluntary contribution to the World Heritage Fund. These include increasing the standard percentage used in the calculation of the contribution to the Fund, increasing the contribution by an additional amount or percentage per property inscribed, increasing the contributions on the basis of the number of tourist arrivals at World Heritage sites or contributing per activity. The General Assembly also noted the recommendations of the Audit of the Working Methods of the Cultural Conventions carried out by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of UNESCO and in this regard, decided to establish a sub-account within the World Heritage Fund, to be funded from Voluntary Contributions and to be used exclusively for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat (recommendation 1a).

In addition, the General Assembly also decided to apply the cost recovery policy for the staff time spent in managing the World Heritage Fund within the limit of the the funds made available under the sub-account (recommendation 1e).

Regarding the recommendation of the External Auditor on the Global Strategy and the PACT Initiative carried out in 2012-2013, the report informed that the General Assembly endorsed the implementation plan put forth by the open-ended working group. In this regard and as

requested earlier by the General Assembly, the World Heritage Committee had examined at length the implementation of the recommendation made by the External Auditor on the Global Strategy. The report noted that this process was still ongoing and a report from the External Auditor on this subject was foreseen at the present session.

Furthermore, the Report indicated that the 19th General Assembly encouraged, once more, States Parties - on a voluntary basis - to *not* submit nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List during their term on the World Heritage Committee. Finally, it was noted that States Parties had expressed support for the Director-General's *Thinking Ahead initiative* and welcomed the recommendation to further enhance and facilitate greater dialogue, communication, transparency and accountability in the process of the Convention.

The Delegation of Oman indicated that, in his report, Mr Al-Lawati expressed his thanks to the Chairperson of the 19th session of the General Assembly for conducting the meeting as well to the Secretariat for its support.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 3** was adopted.

The **Chairperson** closed Item 3 of the Agenda.

ITEM 4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

No Document

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 4**

Le **Président** informe l'Assemblée générale que le Comité a eu l'honneur d'être présidé pendant l'année écoulée par **S. E. Mme Maria Böhmer**. Il indique que le rapport de la Présidente a également été présenté à la 38e session de la Conférence générale et porte la cote 38 C/REP/19. Il indique toutefois que, malheureusement, Mme Maria Böhmer n'a pas pu être présente ce jour, et qu'elle a donc demandé à S. E. l'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne de lire son rapport en son nom.

The **Ambassador of Germany** informed that, following the despicable terrorist attacks in Paris, Professor Böhmer had to attend an important meeting with the Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel in Berlin, which has unfortunately forced her to cancel her travel to Paris and that he will deliver the report on her behalf. He underlined that the night of the 13 November 2016 was one of the most terrible nights that Europe has experienced for a long time. The people of Paris were made to suffer a nightmare of violence, terror and fear. He addressed the profound sympathy of the German people to the families of the victims. He indicated that the Government of Germany, the European Union and the International Community will do their utmost to insure the security of their citizens and to successfully combat ISIS.

On behalf of the Chairperson of the 39th session, the Ambassador informed about the activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee. He thanked all those countries which placed their trust in Germany in electing the country to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and indicated that this trust and support were decisive factors behind the success of the World Heritage Committee's session in Bonn.

The Ambassador of Germany underlined that UNESCO just turned 70, 70 years during which it has lost none of its appeal. He underlined that, on the contrary, with its 195 members, UNESCO was an Organization that unites almost the entire family of States to help promote

peaceful coexistence through culture, education and science and that it has achieved great successes; which undoubtedly included protection of humankind's cultural and natural heritage with the World Heritage Convention.

He indicated that the challenges, particularly for the World Heritage Convention, were plain to see and that the deliberate destruction of World Heritage sites by ISIS in Iraq and Syria were to be seen as attacks on human civilization. In this regard, the Ambassador noted that the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn sent clear signals. With the Bonn Declaration, the destruction of World Heritage sites was denounced as a war crime. With the campaign Unite4Heritage, awareness of our share heritage among the young generation was also raised. Preservation of World Heritage sites was more strongly put into the spotlight once again. The platform for NGOs also acknowledged that civil society is committed to ensuring that the World Heritage Convention is a success. Last but not least, we have managed together to resolve politically controversial new nominations and conflict-laden questions surrounding the preservation of World Heritage sites. These successes impressively demonstrate the strength and future viability of the World Heritage Convention.

The Ambassador of Germany indicated furthermore that the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention were a strong community united by the conviction that shared heritage must also be protected together, irrespective of political systems, religions or cultural traditions. He noted that, the General Assembly of States Parties, held every two years, provided the framework for raising the profile of the World Heritage programme and insuring its sustainable development and that the World Heritage Committee translated this framework into action with its decisions.

On behalf of the Chairperson of the 39th session, the Ambassador, thanked the nine outgoing members of the World Heritage Committee: Algeria, Colombia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Senegal, Serbia and Qatar and also the German Delegation: all launched pioneering initiatives over the past four years and, with their decisions, made an important contribution to protecting World Heritage sites at a time of sweeping changes. He recalled that, at its 39th session, the Committee inscribed 24 new properties on the World Heritage List, 23 cultural, no natural, and one mixed and that subsequently, the total number of properties on the List now stands at 1,031 of which 802 are cultural, 197 are natural and 32 are mixed, located in 163 States Parties. He indicated that 3 sites were inscribed on the List of World Heritage In Danger. Hatra in Iraq, the Old City of Sana'a in Yemen and the Old Walled City of Shibam, also in Yemen. One site, the Los Katíos National Park in Colombia was removed from the List. He recalled also that the total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger was currently standing at 48: 30 cultural and 18 natural. He indicated that these figures showed very clearly that preserving inscribed sites was at least as important as inscribing new sites and that the periodic reporting and reactive monitoring exercise were efficient instruments for monitoring and safeguarding the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage sites: the decisions on Los Katíos National Park and the Great Barrier Reef were outstanding examples in this regard. The Ambassador indicated that a great concern was the World Heritage sites in theatres of war. Indeed, a strategy was needed for the destroyed and heavily damaged World Heritage sites, including the prioritization of the necessary projects and measures; the prohibition of illicit traffic of cultural property and subject it to criminal prosecution; the recording of the state of the threatened sites also via satellite systems; the identification of future stakeholders; and, finally the development of intelligent financing models for the inclusion of the UNESCO Fund, bilateral fund and aid programmes of foundations and NGOs. It was noted that the solidarity of the International Community was decisive for implementing these goals. It was also indicated that the broad backing for the Bonn Declaration and Resolution 69-281 on the protection of Iraqi cultural property co-sponsored by Germany and Iraq and adopted by the United Nations

General Assembly on 28 May 2015 was decisive. It was reaffirmed that the Bonn Declaration adopted by consensus clearly condemns the destruction of cultural heritage as a war crime.

The Ambassador underlined that, in order to raise awareness of World Heritage and to make the international community better able to respond, efforts in the following five areas should be made: training and further education; greater commitment to young people; improve public relations work; further improvement to working methods and continuing reform efforts; as well as shoring up our financial basis. He underlined that training and further education are vital for strengthening the regional and national institutions and that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties and relevant category 2 centres, have in this regard organized numerous capacity-building activities. Mobilize and encourage young people to do their part and protect cultural and natural heritage remained a priority and related educational and youth activities such as the World Heritage Volunteers programme and the World Heritage Youth Forum were of utmost importance. He recalled that young experts on World Heritage met from 18 to 29 June 2015 in the Upper Rhine Valley and in Bonn for the Youth Forum towards a sustainable management of World Heritage sites. Furthermore, it was indicated that increasing public awareness, involvement of and support for World Heritage through communication and enhancing the role of communities were cornerstones for the successful and sustainable implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It was noted that in this context, the website of the World Heritage Centre was an important tool and that the number of visitors has significantly increased from 9.8 million visits in 2012 to 12.6 million visits in 2015.

The Report of the Chairperson indicated that the World Heritage Committee has spearheaded a number of initiatives in order to improve working methods, transparency and communication in the context of the World Heritage Convention. In this regard, a meeting in the framework of the Director-General's initiative, "The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead" was organized on 21 January 2015. Comprehensive reforms were necessary in order to insure the future viability of the World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Committee launched these reforms at its 38th session in Doha, Qatar, and a working group was entrusted to draft of comprehensive proposals for improving procedures for nominating and evaluating World Heritage sites. In particular, the aim was to strengthen transparency, dialogue and a focus on results in the procedures. These recommendations were anchored in the Operational Guidelines and are therefore binding. IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS were heavily involved in the work and have carried out a number of reforms of their own. It was noted that, from now on, a clear focus on World Heritage preservation in the area of financing existed.

On behalf of the Chairperson of the 39th session and in his own behalf, the Ambassador of Germany thanked everybody for the cooperation and spirit of trust in the framework of the exercise of the Chairmanship of the 39th World Heritage Committee. He underlined that the World Heritage Centre had performed its task as Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee most excellently and that the former Director, Mr Kishore Rao, always offered excellent advice to the Chair. He noted that the same was true for his successor, Dr Mechtild Rössler and that all were most delighted to learn of Dr Rössler's appointment. The Ambassador concluded by extending thanks to the staff of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, IUCN, ICCROM, ICOMOS once again.

The **Chairperson** thanked the Ambassador of Germany for this very thorough and excellent report and asked him to convey thanks and appreciation to Prof. Maria Böhmer for the excellent results reached in her presidency and also for her committed personal involvement in the implementation of the Convention.

The Delegation of the **Republic of Korea** joined others in congratulating the Chairperson on

his election. It also commended the Chairperson of the 39th session of the Committee for her leadership, as well as Germany, for having successfully hosted the last session of the World Heritage Committee. It underlined that, under Germany's firm leadership, the Committee has paved the way forward to a stronger World Heritage system through fruitful discussions and recommendations as highlighted in the report. Among Committee successes, the Delegation recalled the consensual decision on the controversial nomination on the Meiji Industrial site referred to as a success for diplomacy by Prof. Maria Böhmer in her keynote speech to the General Conference a few days ago. The Delegation underlined that this success was made possible through upholding the spirit of the World Heritage Convention that World Heritage is shared between all peoples of the world. It indicated that this successful diplomacy will be truly celebrated when the Government of Japan will implement, in good faith, the measures it has announced before the members of the Committee and international society. He reiterated once again the reasons why the Government of the Republic of Korea decided to join the consensus decision on this matter: mainly the trust and full confidence in the Committee and the sincerity of the Japanese Government to implement the promises made in this regard. The Delegation indicated that it was looking forward to continued attention and cooperation of States Parties on this very important issue.

The Delegation of the **Philippines** congratulated the Chairperson on his election and extend his appreciation of the successful Chairmanship by Prof Böhmer of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee. It underscored the importance of the Bonn Declaration, especially in the wake of the destruction of cultural heritage and the trafficking of cultural property to finance terrorism. The Delegation underlined that the World Heritage Committee and General Assembly should build on the Bonn Declaration to achieve practical action. The Delegation stated that more attention should be paid to strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List as a means of enhancing protection for sites in danger and that were potentially in danger. The Delegation underlined that the Convention stood for values of unity and international solidarity, which must be strengthened. The Delegation also highlighted the importance of continued engagement with youth local communities and civil society. The Delegation expressed its appreciation for the reforms in enhancing dialogue and consultation that have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines and indicated to look forward to continuing discussions on enhancing efficiency, resource mobilization and procedures of the Committee and its work.

La Délégation du **Cameroun** félicite le Président pour son élection et l'Allemagne pour le succès des travaux de la 39^e session du Comité, elle souligne que les préoccupations des pays en développement, dont le sien, y ont été bien prises en compte.

La Délégation du **Sénégal** félicite le Président pour son élection et les autorités Allemandes pour l'organisation de la dernière session du Comité. La Délégation mentionne qu'au terme de son mandat, elle constate qu'elle a échoué à rendre la Liste du patrimoine mondial plus crédible. La Délégation souligne que l'Afrique continue d'être sous représentée sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial mais surreprésentée sur la Liste du patrimoine en péril, et qu'il est nécessaire pour le Comité de se pencher sur les raisons de cet état de fait. Il est donc nécessaire de renforcer le processus en amont pour aider les pays africains à présenter leurs dossiers de nomination et que le processus soit plus inclusif et incluant. La déclaration par la Conférence Générale d'une journée de célébration du patrimoine africain sera également une occasion pour avoir des réflexions approfondies et des propositions pour que le patrimoine mondial en Afrique soit mieux préservé et également plus représenté sur la Liste.

The Delegation of **Peru** expressed satisfaction at the election of the Chairperson to the General Assembly and extend its congratulations to Prof. Böhmer for her Chairmanship of

the 39th session of the Committee. The Delegation stated that the meeting in Bonn allowed for substantial progress in implementing policies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage. The Delegation expressed full solidarity with France after the recent terrorists' attacks. It underlined that the Convention's role was not only to preserve the heritage of humanity, but also to promote peace by giving expression and the pride of place to the various cultural identities of people. The Delegation underscored the need to reinforce concrete actions undertaken in the event of armed conflict and highlighted that the initiatives taken by UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee in this regard. The Delegation also highlighted the progress made to improve the Convention's processes and expressed hope that this work would continue. The Delegation noted that statistics indicate that there was still an imbalance on the World Heritage List and concerning the List of World Heritage in Danger as well, most of the sites being concentrated in the same region. The Delegation concluded by stating that the reflection on the role of the Advisory Bodies should be continued in order to allow for more efficiency and neutrality.

The Delegation of **Japan** expressed its solidarity with the people of France together with the rest of the world. It congratulated the Chairperson on his election and welcomed the Report delivered by the Ambassador of Germany. It extended its congratulations to the Chairperson of the 39th session as well as to the German authorities for the conduct and the organisation of the session in Bonn.

The Delegation of **Colombia** thanked the Ambassador of Germany for this report and noted that, once again, such a report invites the States Parties to reflect on the conclusions and challenges. The Delegation who has reached the end of its mandate, expressed the importance for Colombia to have been a member of the World Heritage Committee and to believe in all the principles of the Convention. It expressed the wish to have contributed constructively to all the discussions and debates to which it participated actively. The Delegation indicated that there were new challenges facing the Convention notably the impact of increased development factors on the protection of cultural and natural heritage and that, as repeatedly mentioned during its mandate, a deep analysis for future decision-making was necessary. The Delegation stressed once again the importance of the nomination process and protection of World Heritage sites. Finally, the Delegation thanked all members of the Committee, the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies for the dynamic work during this period.

La Délégation du Burkina-Faso exprime sa solidarité avec le peuple français à la suite des événements dramatiques qui viennent de se dérouler. La Délégation indique être candidate au Comité du patrimoine mondial pour plusieurs raisons essentielles, et notamment en raison de sa position géographique centrale au cœur de l'Afrique occidentale et qui partage plusieurs frontières avec d'autres pays africains avec lesquels il pourrait être possible de mettre en œuvre des programmes liés au patrimoine mondial qui participeraient au rayonnement de la Convention en Afrique.

The Delegation of China congratulated the Chairperson on his election and welcomed the excellent report by the Chairperson of the 39th session of the Committee. The Delegation underlined the importance of the World Heritage programme and the fact that it should be promoted. The Delegation strongly condemned destruction of cultural heritage and reaffirmed its support to the "Unit4Heritage Initiative". The Delegation indicated that it will continue its active contribution to the work of the World Heritage Committee and that in the future, work in the following domains should be strengthened: evaluation process more transparent and participative, reform of the election system, better geographical balance of experts and reduction of controversial nominations between States Parties.

The Delegation of Qatar congratulated the Chairperson on his election and expressed its solidarity with the French people after the recent tragic events. It informed that Qatar was terminating its mandate to the Committee and that the country appreciated to work in a team spirit during all the years. The Delegation extended its congratulations to the Chairperson of the 39th session as well as to the German authorities for the conduct and the organisation of the session in Bonn. The Delegation expressed the wish that the Committee pursue its work to protect cultural and natural heritage and recalled in this regard that Qatar is still willing to contribute for an amount of 10 million US\$ for the safeguarding of World Heritage. The Delegation called on all other State Parties to join Qatar in this endeavor. The Delegation ended presenting its congratulations to the new Director of the World Heritage Centre on her appointment.

Le **Président** remercie la Délégation du Qatar et l'assure de ses souvenirs très vifs et très positifs de l'excellente 38^e session du Comité qui s'est déroulée à Doha, il y a deux ans.

La Délégation de **l'Algérie** félicite le Président pour son élection et exprime sa solidarité avec la France après les attaques terroristes. La Délégation salue l'esprit de consensus qui a prévalu tout au long de la 39^e session du Comité. Elle mentionne que le mandat de l'Algérie comme membre du Comité vient à expiration et espère avoir été à la hauteur de la confiance qui a été placée en elle par les États parties qu'elle remercie ;

La Délégation de la **Serbie** présente ses félicitations au Président de l'Assemblée générale pour son élection rappelle la fin de son mandat au Comité et remercie tous les autres membres de cette excellente collaboration même dans les situations les plus délicates. Elle se réfère particulièrement à l'excellence de la Présidence du Professeur Böhmer qui a beaucoup aidé à surmonter, avec sagesse et aussi une grande maturité, certains problèmes qui auraient pu menacer l'unité du Comité. La Délégation indique que la Serbie va continuer à contribuer activement à la protection du patrimoine mondial.

The Delegation of **Eritrea** congratulated the Chairperson on his election and expressed its solidarity with France. It informed that the country was in the process of submitting a file for nomination of a site on the list, and that there were currently two sites in the tentative List of Eritrea. It thanked the African World Heritage Fund for the capacity building programme Eritrea benefitted, as well as for the training programme regarding conservation and management provided by the World Heritage Centre.

The Delegation of **India** congratulated the Chairperson on his election. It expressed its appreciation to Germany for hosting the 39th session of the Committee in June last and also to the Chairperson Prof. Böhmer for the excellent report. The Delegation recalled the General Assembly that its mandate as a member of the Committee was ending this year, and underlined that India participated actively in the work of the Committee. It expressed satisfaction regarding the institutionalization of the consultation and dialogue process on nominations between the Advisory Bodies and States Parties and commended the Advisory Bodies for their constructive role in this regard. The Delegation further stated that various challenges still needed to be addressed, and in particular issues related to the sustainability of World Heritage Fund and to a more representative and balanced World Heritage List. In this regard, the Delegation expressed its hope that the *ad hoc* working group, under the Chairmanship of Turkey, will come to strong recommendations.

The Delegation of **Tanzania** congratulated the Chairperson on his election and expressed its solidarity with the French people. It further commended Prof. Böhmer and Germany for their leadership during the past year. The Delegation also thanked Mr Rao for his assistance during the time he was the Head of the World Heritage Centre and indicated that it looked forward to working very closely with Madam Rössler, the newly appointed Director. The

Delegation of Tanzania expressed its appreciation to Senegal for representing Africa very efficiently during that last two years when they were the only African member of the World Heritage Committee. It announced the candidature of Tanzania to the World Heritage Committee and thanked everyone for supporting the country in the elections to come.

La Délégation de la **Tunisie** exprime ses sentiments de sympathie et de solidarité à ses collègues et amis de la Délégation française. Elle félicite le Président pour son élection et indique que la Tunisie n'épargnera aucun effort pour le bon déroulement des travaux. Elle rappelle la candidature de la Tunisie au Comité du patrimoine mondial et souligne l'importance de l'expertise dans les travaux du Comité.

The Delegation of **Turkey** added its voice to the previous speakers who have announced and registered their determination to act as one unified body to challenge terrorism. The Delegation addressed its congratulations to the Chairperson on his election and also welcomed the appointment of the new Director of the World Heritage Centre with whom Turkey is looking forward to working very closely until the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee. It thanked also Prof. Böhmer for its Chairmanship over the past session and also welcomed her report. The Delegation reaffirmed its willingness and commitment in the continuation of the work of the *ad hoc* working group to promote the flagship Convention and the very prestigious organ of UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee.

The Delegation of **Kuwait** presented its sincere condolences to the people and Government of France in the aftermath of the recent terrorists attacks. It congratulated the Chairperson on his election. The Delegation underlined the importance of cultural heritage of humanity notably in its region, cradle of numerous civilizations. It expressed its deep regrets that some of most important sites of the region have been severely destroyed, and indicated that, hence, it fully supported the initiative "Unite4Heritage". The Delegation informed the General Assembly of its candidacy for the election of the Committee members, and requested all the State Parties' support in this matter.

La Délégation du **Mali** indique que le Pays a fait porter le message de sa solidarité avec le peuple français à travers le discours du Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur devant la Conférence générale. Elle félicite le Président pour son élection. La Délégation remercie tous les États membres ayant contribué au Fonds d'urgence mis en place pour la reconstruction du patrimoine mondial de Tombouctou. Elle rappelle que la Directrice générale s'est rendue au Mali le 18 juillet dernier pour inaugurer ses monuments. La Délégation souhaite que cet exemple serve pour d'autres pays.

The Delegation of the **United Arab Emirates** congratulated the Chairperson on his election. It further commended Prof. Böhmer and the German authorities for their leadership during the past World Heritage Committee session, which was considered as an exceptional one. The Delegation expressed its solidarity with the French people and its sadness regarding the recent tragic events in Paris. It referred also to the intentional destruction of heritage by Daesh and its sister's organizations. It called on all States Parties to work jointly in the fight against terrorism and destruction of heritage, and to contribute to the fund created to this end. The Delegation congratulated Mrs Rossler on her appointment to the post of Director of the World Heritage Centre and welcomed the progress of the *ad hoc* working group and the enhancement of the cooperation between States Parties and the Advisory Bodies.

Le Président remercie toutes les Délégations pour leurs interventions et pour leurs commentaires, souvent extrêmement constructifs et utiles. Il remercie également tous les États qui quittent maintenant le Comité du patrimoine mondial pour leur contribution très importante aux travaux de ce Comité et aussi pour leur engagement dans la préservation et la protection du patrimoine

. Il indique être certain qu'ils continueront à l'avenir, aussi engagés, dans la poursuite de ces mêmes objectifs.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 4** was adopted.

The **Chairperson** closed Item 4 of the Agenda.

ITEM 5. REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE 1ST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNESCO, 2014)

Document WHC-15/20.GA /INF.5

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 5**

Le Président rappelle que l'Assemblée générale a tenu l'année dernière, le 13 et le 14 novembre 2014, sa première session extraordinaire consacrée à la révision de son règlement intérieur. Cette session a été présidée par **Mme Vera Lacoeuilhe** de la Délégation de Sainte-Lucie à qui le Président donne la parole pour qu'elle présente son rapport.

Mme Vera Lacoeuilhe, Présidente de la 1ere session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Etats Parties, indique tout d'abord que la question de la distribution des sièges a été débattue pendant des années et que plusieurs groupes de travail se sont penchés sur la question et notamment un premier groupe de travail présidé par l'Ambassadeur Musitelli (France) et un deuxième groupe présidé par l'Ambassadeur Kondo (Japon). Elle indique que ces groupes avaient fait des propositions qui avaient été adoptées par l'Assemblée générale, et une distribution minimale des sièges avait été proposée, un par groupe électoral. Cependant, elle souligne que lors des élections au Comité du patrimoine mondial, en novembre 2013, le Groupe africain s'est retrouvé représenté par un seul membre et que cet état de fait a été extrêmement regretté par l'ensemble des États parties. Elle rappelle qu'alors l'Assemblée générale des États parties a décidé d'appliquer pleinement l'article 8, paragraphe 2 de la Convention du patrimoine mondial stipulant que l'élection des membres du Comité doit assurer une représentation équitable des différentes régions et cultures du monde. Dans ce cadre, elle a décidé d'établir un groupe de travail ouvert d'une durée limitée à un an et avec une participation équitable de toutes les régions qui se réunirait à Paris avec des ressources extrabudgétaires.

Elle indique que ce groupe de travail ouvert a eu pour but de faire des propositions d'amendement au Règlement intérieur afin d'atteindre l'objectif de la représentation géographique et culturelle équitable au sein du Comité du patrimoine mondial - y compris par une répartition des sièges par régions définie en référence aux groupes électoraux de l'UNESCO - ainsi que d'autres mesures.

La Présidente précise que ce groupe de travail a été présidé par S.Exc. M.Jean-Frédéric Josselin, Ambassadeur Délégué permanent de la Suisse. M. Francisco Javier Gutierrez Plata, de la Délégation permanente de Colombie, ayant assuré les fonctions de Rapporteur. Elle les remercie vivement pour leurs efforts. Elle indique qu'un nombre important de représentants d'États parties ont assisté aux réunions de ce groupe qui s'est réuni à trois reprises en janvier, mars et mai 2014. Après un travail intense, les travaux et propositions du groupe de travail ont été examinés par la première Assemblée extraordinaire, en novembre 2014. La Présidente informe que de nombreuses consultations et réunions informelles dans

les groupes régionaux et entre les groupes régionaux ont eu lieu à ce sujet, dans le but de trouver un consensus avant l'Assemblée extraordinaire. Cependant, le groupe de travail ayant proposé trois options possibles, il fut difficile d'obtenir un consensus sur une seule option. La Présidente souligne qu'il était cependant clair, après les consultations, qu'une majorité se détachait pour l'option appelée « la proposition norvégienne ».

Mrs. Lacoeylthe indicated that the Extraordinary General Assembly was able to reach a positive outcome to achieve an equitable geographical and cultural representation on the World Heritage Committee. After intensive debates and multiple voting rounds on the various proposals brought forward, the so-called "Norwegian Proposal" was unanimously adopted as amended. She mentioned that, following this Resolution, the elections of committee members will now be conducted on the basis of the composition of the electoral groups of UNESCO with the following allocation of seats: 2 seats for Group I, 2 seats for Group II, 2 seats for Group III, 3 seats for Group IV, 4 seats for Group V, 2 seats for Group Va and 2 seats for Group Vb. An additional floating seat shall also be allocated to Group III and Group IV on a rotational basis leaving therefore 5 seats for an open election.

Therefore, Mrs. Lacoeylthe recalled that the General Assembly, at its present session, would have to take a decision on the rotational order for the floating seat to be allocated to Group III or Group IV on a rotational basis according to the Resolution. The new system of election envisaged 2 ballots: the first ballot for the allocated seats shall proceed the ballot for the remaining seats to be filled, the candidates obtaining the highest number of votes in the first round shall be declared elected in the sequential order of the number of votes obtained from the highest to the lowest up to the number of available seats to be filled. A provision for a second round of voting is foreseen in case of a tie. The second ballot shall be conducted to allocate the open non-allocated seats where the candidates that obtain more than half of the valid votes cast by States Parties present and voting in the first round shall be declared elected in the sequential order of the number of votes obtained from the highest to the lowest up to the number of seats to be filled. If there still remain seats to be filled, there shall be a second round of voting. She indicated that the provision for 1 seat to be reserved for States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List at each session was abolished. However, the Extraordinary General Assembly decide to include in its Rules of Procedure a provision that each electoral group will give due consideration to the election of at least 1 State Party which has never served as a Member of the World Heritage Committee. She underlined that the number of the States Parties having never served on the Committee was 103, being higher than the number of States Parties with no property on the List. She informed that, in order to avoid clean slates, the General Assembly strongly requested the Member States and electoral group to provide a sufficient number of candidates for each seat at each election to insure a genuine choice at each election. Mrs Lacoeylthe further underlined that the Extraordinary Assembly also adopted measures to increase the gap between a State Party's mandates on the Committee from four to six years and to introduce a standard candidature format for the presentation of experts. She indicated that the standard format was proposed by the Secretariat and should be therefore adopted by this General Assembly.

Mrs Lacoeylthe noted that the First Extraordinary session of the General Assembly was a very difficult and tense meeting, and sometime quite unpleasant. However, she stated that the important was that, in the end, the Assembly adopted one proposal unanimously.

However, Mrs Lacoeylthe stated that a misunderstanding was to be cleared up to the Assembly. She indicated that, during the adoption of the other measures, the Ambassador of Japan had made a proposal this electoral system to be evaluated six years from now. This proposal was put on the screen and that she suggested this proposal be adopted at the end of the Resolution. Unfortunately, when the Assembly went to the adoption of the whole decision, it was forgotten to put formally to the Assembly this proposal by Japan for adoption.

However, due to the fact that the proposal was on the screen, the Ambassador of Japan thought that it had been adopted with the rest of the articles on the screen and that was why he was able to join the consensus on the Norwegian Proposal. Therefore, Mrs Lacoueilhe proposed that this decision be adopted by the 20th General Assembly, at its current session. She added furthermore that, in her perspective, evaluating a new electoral system was a responsible thing to do in order to make sure that the system adopted is a system that works, that meets its objectives and that can continue to be implemented. Mrs Lacoueilhe indicated that she would like therefore to propose to the present General Assembly to evaluate this electoral system six years from now.

Mrs Lacoueilhe ended the presentation of her report underlining that elections, electoral systems as well as sitting on the Committee were all extremely important, but that States Parties should not lose sight that this was far from being the most important. She mentioned that a lot of time was wasted and that a lot of debates occurred on these issues of election and distribution of seating in the past 10 years. She insisted on the fact that what really matters was serving the interests of all, of the Convention, working for the objectives of the Convention which are the credibility of the List and the conservation of heritage for future generations.

Le **Président** remercie vivement Mme Lacoueilhe de sa présentation et indique, au nom de l'Assemblée générale, combien sa qualité de la conduite des travaux de l'Assemblée extraordinaire a été appréciée. Soulignant que cette tâche ne fut pas toujours facile, il félicite et remercie la Présidente. Il suggère que la proposition de cette dernière soit étudiée lors de l'examen de la Résolution 20 GA 6 qui traite de ces questions.

La Délégation du **Sénégal** remercie Mme Lacoueilhe pour son rapport, indiquant qu'elle a bien rappelé le contexte dans lequel les décisions ont été adoptées ainsi que le rôle tout à fait appréciable que l'Ambassadeur Josselin a joué à cet égard. La Délégation souligne qu'il convient de la remercier également et de la féliciter pour le leadership avec lequel elle a conduit ces travaux qui ont été longs et difficiles. La Délégation reconnaît que les États parties, n'ont pas rendu la tâche de la Présidente plus facile. Toutefois, elle souligne son désaccord quant au fait que la proposition relative à l'évaluation a été adoptée. La Délégation indique que cette proposition a été présentée, mais n'a jamais été adoptée, qu'elle s'y est elle-même opposée à l'époque et qu'elle s'y oppose encore aujourd'hui. La Délégation souligne que dans des débats qui ont été difficiles, il était nécessaire de parvenir à un consensus. Le résultat n'a été atteint que grâce à de multiples votes, comme vient de le rappeler la Présidente de l'Assemblée générale extraordinaire. Ainsi, la Délégation propose de ne pas discuter de la proposition de la réévaluation au bout de six ans qui n'a jamais été acceptée. La Délégation insiste sur le fait qu'il n'est pas souhaitable de permettre une réouverture de débat sur une Résolution déjà adoptée.

The Delegation of **Ecuador** supported the position of the Delegation of Senegal.

Mrs Lacoueilhe clarified that she never has said that this proposal was adopted and that, if it had been the case, it would have been integrated in the final text of the Resolution. She clarified that, if it was not reflected in the Resolution, it was because of a mistake she made. She underlined that she had the courage to recognize this mistake as she was now presenting it formally to the Extraordinary Assembly for approval or refusal before the adoption of the final Resolution. She indicated that this proposal might have been refused by the Extraordinary Assembly. Mrs Lacoueilhe underlined that she never said that the proposal was accepted; or never implied that this Assembly would accept it. She underlined that the Assembly is sovereign to accept it or refuse it. She indicated again that the Ambassador of Japan thought his proposal was adopted, as it was on the screen. Mrs Lacoueilhe specified that Japan was not coming back with the intention to reopen the Resolution. She confirmed

that the Resolution was adopted by the Extraordinary Assembly and stands as it is. She clarified that her suggestion was to put this proposal to the 20th session of the Assembly and that the Assembly was free to accept or refuse it.

The Delegation of **Tanzania** joined the previous speakers in thanking Mrs Lacoeylthe for her leadership throughout her Chairmanship of the First Extraordinary session of the General Assembly which was a very difficult session. It underlined that its recollection was that the proposal by Japan was put forward but not approved, that it was discussed but not unanimously agreed. Therefore, the Delegation supported the position expressed by Senegal and Ecuador regarding the importance to not reopen a debate on a Resolution already adopted.

The Chairperson indicated that he will give the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre to indicate exactly where this debate was reflected in the minutes of the 1st extraordinary session so that everyone has a clear notion of what is at stake here.

The Director of the World Heritage Center informed that the Summary Records of First Extraordinary Session that took place November 2014 were available on the webpage of the World Heritage Centre. She indicated that they could be found in Document WHC-14/1 EXT.GA/ INF 4 and that the debate concerning the proposal put forward by the Delegation of Japan, could be found in page 48 of the English version.

The Delegation of **China** thanked Mrs Lacoeylthe for her efficient leadership of the First Extraordinary session of the General Assembly. It extend also its thanks to the Swiss Ambassador regarding its Chairmanship of the working group. It underlined that the proposal put forward regarding election to the World Heritage Committee will allow balanced and opened elections. The Delegation also referred to the floating seat between Group III and IV indicating that, after consultation with Group III, this seat should be attributed to Group IV. The Delegation thanked Group III for constructive discussions in this regard.

The Delegation of **South Africa** appreciated the clarification by the Chair of the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly especially with regard to the fact that Japan was not coming back to propose that this matter be tabled here. The Delegation indicated that it was also opposed to the proposal by Japan, which was not adopted at that time. Hence, the Delegation supported the position of previous speakers of this matter.

The Delegation of **Japan** thanked Mrs Lacoeylthe for her explanation and expressed its wish to clarify things not to make this process even more difficult than it was. It confirmed that Japan was not trying to reopen a debate which took place already. The Delegation clarified that, this issue being a very important one, it may happen that Japan or any other State Party might wish, at any time, to raise issues *if* there is some room for improvement. The Delegation thanked again the Chair of the First Extraordinary session and all States parties for their statements.

The **Chairperson** thanked the Delegation of Japan for this constructive approach at this stage of discussion.

The Delegation of **Palestine** also welcomed this positive approach by Japan and reminded the Assembly that any State Party may request in the future the inclusion on the Agenda of an item requesting the revision of the electoral system. The Delegation welcomed also the intervention by China regarding the attribution of the floating seat. It thanked Mrs Lacoeylthe for her conduct of the debates of the Extraordinary session that led to very good results.

The Delegation of **Peru** expressed its sincere thanks to Mrs Lacoeylthe for her remarkable conduct of the work of the Extraordinary session. It underlined that it was clear the proposal from Japan was not approved at that time. It agreed with the fact that any Delegation in the future will have the opportunity to put forward a proposal regarding an evaluation of the system.

The Delegation of **Brazil** congratulated the Chairperson on his election and expressed its solidarity with the people of France after the recent attacks. It also thanked Mrs Lacoeylthe for her thorough report and congratulated her for the constructive and transparent approach as Chair of the Extraordinary session. It also welcomed the positive outcomes of the Extraordinary Assembly which really address the concerns demonstrated by a large number of Delegations especially in relation with an equitable geographical representation in the Committee. The Delegation thanked also Group IV for the appropriate decision of starting with the floating seat from the very beginning of the implementation of the new Rules which will avoid all distortions in the forthcoming elections and allow for a maximum of free seats available in order to preserve competition and avoid, if possible, clean slates. The Delegation underlined that, by rotating the floating seat between Group III and Group IV every session, the credibility of the negotiations and of the Convention itself will be preserved.

La Délégation du **Maroc** félicite le Président pour son élection ainsi que Mme Lacoeylthe, pour son excellent travail, sa patience et ses efforts louables afin que les États parties puissent arriver à une solution consensuelle lors de l'Assemblée extraordinaire. En ce qui concerne la proposition du Japon, la Délégation indique avoir cru comprendre que l'évaluation concerne les travaux du Comité du patrimoine mondial et ne remet pas en cause la Résolution adoptée pendant l'Assemblée extraordinaire. Si c'est le cas, la Délégation indique n'avoir aucune objection en ce qui concerne le fait d'évaluer tous les six ou sept ans les travaux du Comité. Au contraire, elle estime que ce serait une très bonne chose pour voir si les sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sont vraiment des sites qui le méritent et qui ont une valeur universelle.

The Delegation of **Angola** joined the previous speakers in supporting the position of Senegal.

La Délégation du **Portugal** félicite le Président et exprime sa sympathie pour les victimes du terrorisme à Paris et ailleurs. Elle souligne l'excellent travail accompli l'année dernière par Mme Lacoeylthe, qu'elle remercie très chaleureusement pour son efficacité lors d'une réunion qui n'était pas facile. Elle souligne qu'il semble qu'un équilibre ait été trouvé qui paraît répondre aux demandes de tous les États parties d'avoir des sièges alloués et d'avoir de la compétition. Elle indique que le futur dira si des États parties demandent une évaluation de ce système.

Le **Président** remercie encore une fois la Présidente de la première session extraordinaire pour l'excellence de son rapport et pour la façon transparente et courageuse avec laquelle elle a abordé une question qui était un peu critique. Le Président précise à la Délégation Marocaine que l'évaluation proposée concerne le nouveau système électoral qui sera utilisé lors de la présente Assemblée générale. Il indique qu'il va faire une proposition dans le sens de la majorité de ceux qui se sont exprimés, se basant sur le fait que n'importe quelle délégation peut proposer à l'avenir de débattre de cette question ; tout le monde étant libre de le faire et que ce sera à ensuite à l'Assemblée de décider. Il propose donc de laisser cette question à ce stade, jusqu'à ce qu'un État membre souhaite la susciter. Il remercie les délégations pour leurs interventions très utiles. Le Président propose ensuite que l'Assemblée générale prenne note du rapport de la Présidente de la première session extraordinaire.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 5** was adopted.

The **Chairperson** closed Item 5 of the Agenda.

FIRST DAY – Wednesday, 18 November 2015

SECOND MEETING

3 pm – 6 pm

Chairperson : H.E. Mr. MORAES CABRAL (Portugal)

ITEM 6. ELECTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/6
WHC-15/20.GA /INF.6

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 6**

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** indicated that there was also an audio transmission of the debates in Room IV.

The **Chairperson** recalled that the revised Rules of Procedure to ensure equitable geographical and cultural representation to the World Heritage Committee including through allocation of seats through region, were adopted by the First Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly of States Parties. He informed that these revised Rules of Procedure have been translated into English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian and that paper copies were available in the room. He recalled Resolution **1 EXT.GA 3**, paragraph 6: *“the rotational order for the attribution of the floating seat for Group III and Group IV shall be decided by the General Assembly of States Parties at its 20th ordinary session in 2015”*. He recalled the current composition of the World Heritage Committee as presented in document WHC-15/20.GA/6 according to which Group IV was already represented by 4 States Parties, corresponding to 3 allocated seats as per Rule 14.1 (c) of the Rules of Procedure, as well as one seat in addition. The Chairperson recalled that, this morning; the Delegations of China, Brazil and Palestine among others had proposed the attribution on a *de facto* basis of the floating seat to Group IV; he therefore put this proposal before the General Assembly. As no delegation objected, the Chairperson declared this proposal adopted by the General Assembly. He further informed that for the elections which would take place at the 21st session of the General Assembly in 2017, the floating seat would be allocated to Group III. A paragraph referring to this decision was added in draft Resolution 20 GA 6.

The **Chairperson** then proceeded, in accordance with Article 14.1 b of the Rules of Procedure, with the ballot for the allocated seats for the Electoral Groups. He recalled the current composition of the World Heritage Committee and Rule 14.1 (c) of the Rules of Procedure according to which 2 seats were allocated for Group I, 2 seats were allocated for Group II, 2 seats were allocated for Group III, 3 seats were allocated for Group IV, 4 seats were allocated for Group Va and 2 seats were allocated for Group Vb. He indicated that this ballot will be for the vacant allocated seats for Group Va and Group Vb and that the ballots for the allocated seats for Group Va and Group Vb will take place concurrently; the ballot paper with the candidate from these two electoral groups will be distributed by the Secretariat immediately after this introduction to the first ballot. The Chairperson quoted Rule 14.1 (d) of the Rules of Procedure *“at each election due consideration shall be given to the election of at least one State Party which has never served as a Member of the World Heritage Committee”* and informed the General Assembly that for the upcoming ballot on the allocated seats two candidates from Group Va, Angola and Burkina Faso, had never served as a member of the World Heritage Committee. For Group Va, he also informed the General Assembly that, as stated in document WHC-15-20.GA-INF.6A.REV, there were 4 candidates

for the 4 allocated seats, those being Angola, Burkina Faso, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. For Group Vb, he indicated that, as stated in document WHC-15-20.GA-INF.6A.REV, there were 2 candidates for the allocated seats, Kuwait and Tunisia. He reminded the General Assembly that the candidates for the allocated seats indicated on the ballot paper had been drawn from the list of candidatures established in accordance with Rules 31, 34 and 43 of the Rules of Procedure. He informed the General Assembly that he will give the floor to the Delegation of Tunisia and subsequently to the Delegation of Kuwait, at their request to make a brief statement on their candidatures.

La **Délégation de la Tunisie** rappelle que la candidature de la Tunisie remonte à 2014 et que depuis, de multiples démarches ont eu lieu. Elle souligne que la candidature a été présentée après une consultation étroite au sein du Groupe Arabe. Ainsi, elle souligne que le Président du Groupe Arabe, a envoyé une note verbale pour informer de la décision du Groupe Arabe de soutenir la candidature du Koweït pour un siège ouvert celle de la Tunisie pour le siège alloué au Groupe Arabe. La Délégation de la Tunisie remercie l'Ambassadeur du Koweït et fait appel aux Etats membres pour apporter leur soutien à sa candidature au siège alloué au Groupe arabe.

The Delegation of **Kuwait** underlined that it was running for the open seat notably due to the fact that Arab World Heritage was particularly threatened in the current period and numerous Arab sites are inscribed on the list and on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Therefore, Kuwait was of the opinion that it was amongst its duties to support the Director General's #Unite4Heritage campaign and to strengthen the efforts to safeguard cultural heritage as a response to the recent attacks on heritage and as a sign to stand up against extremism and radicalization. The Delegation indicated that it was supporting the candidature of Tunisia to the allocated seat.

The Delegation of **Qatar**, in its capacity as President of the Arab Group, confirmed that the Arab Group supported Tunisia's candidature for the allocated seat and Kuwait's candidature for the open seat.

The **Chairperson** summarized again that Tunisia was running for the allocated seat and that Kuwait for the open seat. He informed the General Assembly that the *Rules of Procedure* do not restrict the requirement of a formal vote to cases where the number of candidatures is greater than the number of seats to be filled. Therefore, even though there is a clean slate for Group Va, the *Rules of Procedure* require that a ballot for the allocated seats still takes place. He also reminded the General Assembly that, in accordance with Rule 14.8(a) of the *Rules of Procedures* "*the candidates(s) obtaining in the first round **the highest number of votes** shall be declared elected in the sequential order of the number of votes obtained from the highest to the lowest, up to the number of seat(s) to be filled*"

Le Président rappelle également la décision **7 EXT.COM 15**, selon laquelle l'élection des membres du Comité du patrimoine mondial doit s'effectuer dans une salle distincte de la salle de réunion principale, équipée du matériel nécessaire au vote et informe que les élections vont avoir lieu dans les Salles VI et VII. Il donne la parole à la Directrice du centre du patrimoine mondial pour présenter les informations nécessaires quant au déroulement de la procédure d'élection.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** informed about the documents WHC-15/20.GA/6, WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6A.Rev, WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6B, WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6C and that the polling stations were situated in Rooms VI and VII. She explained that during the first ballot for the allocated seat, candidates obtaining in the first round the highest number of votes shall be elected in accordance with Rule 14.8(a). She also explained that during the first ballot for the open seats, candidates obtaining more than half of the valid votes cast by

States Parties present and voting shall be elected in accordance with Rule 14.8(b). According to Rule 14.9, for the second round, the candidates obtaining the highest number of votes up to the number of seats to be filled shall be declared elected. She indicated also that, in case in the second round two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes and as a result the number of these candidates is greater than the remaining number of seats to be filled, there shall be an additional round of voting restricted to those candidates who obtained the same number of votes. Furthermore, if in this additional round of voting two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairperson shall decide by drawing lots among them in order to allocate the remaining seats. The Director of the Centre then explained how the ballot papers should be filled in order to be considered as valid. Finally she announced that the first ballot would take place from 3.30 pm until 4.15 pm and that the results would be announced at 4.45 pm in Room II and that the second ballot would take place from 5 pm until 5.45 pm with the results announced at 6.15 pm in Room II.

The **Delegation of Lebanon** asked to be informed of which State Parties had sent the CV of their representative, experts and recalled that the Convention requests that State Parties should be represented in the Committee by qualified persons in the field of cultural and natural heritage. It indicated that the Assembly should know for whom they are voting.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** informed that CVs from the following countries were received Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Indonesia, Kuwait, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, but not from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Latvia.

Le **Président** procède à la désignation de deux scrutateurs, conformément à l'Article 14.2 du Règlement intérieur. Il propose de désigner M. Wanderi de la Délégation du Kenya et Mme. Siim de la Délégation de l'Estonie et invite les Etats membres à se rendre dans les Salles VI et VII pour procéder au scrutin qui concerne les sièges alloués par groupe électoral. Il rappelle qu'après chaque scrutin les résultats seront annoncés dans la Salle II.

[voting]

The **Chairperson** announced the results of the ballot for the allocated seats for Group Va and Group Vb:

Results for Allocated seats (Total votes: **156** - Valid votes: **156**)

Group Va

Angola: **144**

Burkina Faso: **141**

United Republic of Tanzania: **144**

Zimbabwe: **133**

Group Vb

Kuwait 21

Tunisia: 134

The **Chairperson** declared the following States Parties elected to the World Heritage Committee for **Group Va: Angola, Burkina-Faso, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe** and for **Group Vb: Tunisia**.

Results for the Open seats (Total votes: **156** - Valid votes: **156**)

Azerbaijan: **155**

Bosnia and Herzegovina: **63**

Cuba: **128**

Indonesia: **113**

Kuwait: **98**

Latvia: **64**

The **Chairperson** declared the following States Parties elected to the World Heritage Committee: **Azerbaijan, Cuba, Indonesia and Kuwait**

Before the adoption of the Draft Decision, the Chairperson recalled that, by **Resolution 1 EX.GA3**; the General Assembly has decided to introduce a standard format for the presentation of experts and that this format was presented in document WHC-15/20.GA/INF.6C and reflected in paragraph 5 of the Draft Resolution.

The **Delegation of India** indicated that it should be reflected in the Resolution that the floating seat should rotate every two years between Group III and IV.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** confirmed that the floating seat would be allocated to Group III for the elections which would take place at the 21st session of the General Assembly in 2017.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 6** was adopted as amended.

The Chairperson closed **Item 6** of the Agenda.

SECOND DAY – Thursday, 19 November 2015

THIRD MEETING

10 am – 1 pm

Chairperson : H.E. Mr. MORAES CABRAL (Portugal)

ITEM 7. EXAMINATION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND, INCLUDING THE STATUS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATES PARTIES

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/7
WHC-15/20.GA/INF.7

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 7**

The **Chairperson** indicated that the General Assembly will now have to discuss **Item 7** of its Agenda regarding the examination of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund. Before doing so, the Chairperson extended once again its congratulation to those States Parties that have been elected to the World Heritage Committee, namely Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Indonesia, Kuwait, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. He then informed the General Assembly that the Representative of the Bureau of Financial Management of UNESCO, will proceed with the introduction of documents WHC-15/20.GA/7 and WHC-15/20.GA/INF.7 concerning the Statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund.

The Representative of the Bureau of Financial Management (BFM) briefly introduced the item indicating that two sets of financial statements were available: the first one covering the financial statement for the 2012-2013 biennium which required the approval of the General Assembly and the second set of interim financial statements covering the first 18 months of this current biennium, that the General Assembly should take note of. He indicated that these financial statements are prepared on a consistent basis and that expenditure included goods and services delivered during the period as well as outstanding obligations. Regarding the first set of financial statements (2012-2013 biennium), he informed that the income exceeded the expenditure by about \$160,000. He indicated that savings from prior years commitments amount to about \$422,000 to \$427,000. The accumulated result of the Fund as of 31 December 2013 amounted to \$5M. Looking at the programme expenditure, \$5M represented 92% of the approved budget in terms of implementation for the closed biennium of 2012-2013. He also noted that, in the statement of assets and liabilities, the cash balance as of 31 December 2013 was \$5.7M, but that there were liabilities of about \$900,000, many relating to contracts which were outstanding at the end of the year. He recalled that the second set of the financial statements were internal and were just for information purposes, giving a status for the first 18 months of the biennium. He indicated that in terms of implementation of the budget, the expenditure was about 86% of the approved expenditure plan. He noted that a third set of financial information was also provided with regard to the status of outstanding contributions from States Parties. As of 13 November 2015, the total amount outstanding from States Parties amounted to \$209,000, i.e regarding compulsory assessed contribution: 125 States Parties had paid their contributions and 54 States Parties were in arrears. Of the 12 States Parties on assessed voluntary contribution, 5 States Parties had not paid in 2015. It was also indicated that since this report was produced on 13 November 2015, 3 States Parties (Ghana, Haiti and Senegal) had paid their contribution.

The **Chairperson** thanked the Representative of the Bureau of Financial Management for his detailed presentation.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 7** was adopted.

The **Chairperson** closed Item 7 of the Agenda.

ITEM 8. DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 16 OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Documents: **WHC-15/20.GA/8**
 WHC-15/20.GA /INF.8

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 8**

The **Chairperson** gave the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre to introduce the item.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** indicated that, under item 8, the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention shall determine a uniform percentage for the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund applicable to all States Parties according to Article 16, paragraph 1 of the World Heritage Convention. She further indicated that the percentage, as decided by the General Assembly, will be applicable to the contributions made to the World Heritage Fund 2016-2017. She recalled that Article 16, paragraph 1 of the Convention stated that, in no case, shall the compulsory contribution of States Parties to the Convention exceed 1% of the contribution of the regular budget of UNESCO. She underlined however that, even if determined at 1%, it will not be sufficient to carry out the wide range of activities which are required for the implementation of the Convention and that related to Resolutions taken by this General Assembly but also to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. The Director of the Centre noted that there was a proposal in the working document to increase the unrestricted voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund. She mentioned that there was a total mismatch between the situation of the World Heritage Fund and the expectations of States Parties, notably with what concerns assistance to States Parties with upstream processes and a number of other areas. She indicated that this proposal to the General Assembly to increase unrestricted supplementary, voluntary contributions was made in order to reinforce the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. She informed that the options proposed were on a voluntary basis only and that it was an additional option to the ones that were already presented but which obtained limited results. The Director of the Centre informed furthermore that this was one of the key issues discussed already at numerous sessions of the General Assembly. She indicated that only one country (Australia) had applied option 1, which was increasing the standard percentage used in the calculation of the contribution to the World Heritage Fund from 1% to 2% for 2014 and 2015. She also noted that the amounts were not binding but were just reflecting a possible methodology and that the proposal was divided into two modalities: first, to introduce a minimum amount for contributions under \$5,000; and secondly, to apply an additional percentage to the amount of contributions of about \$5,000. As indicated in the relevant working document, half of the States Parties to the Convention paid a contribution of less than \$500, the smallest assessed contribution to the World Heritage Fund being \$33 per year. She mentioned that, as reflected in Table 2 of Document 8, the assessed contributions have been arranged in eight categories from zero to \$1M. For the States Parties, the first three categories (i.e. below \$5,000) it was proposed to

complement the assessed contributions on a voluntary basis to obtain a minimum flat amount of \$500, \$1,000 or \$5,000 respectively. For the States Parties of the remaining categories (i.e about \$5,000), it was proposed to complement the assessed contributions by adding 50% of the amount of their contributions on a voluntary basis. The Director of the Centre insisted on the fact that this was on a voluntary basis. She further indicated that this new proposal, if applied by all 191 States Parties, would help to augment the World Heritage Fund up to \$1.7M annually. In addition to this proposal, she reminded that each State Party may contribute to the World Heritage Fund at any time according to the options recommended by the General Assembly at its last session. Finally, she recalled that the World Heritage Fund included also four sub-accounts for international assistance, human capacities of the World Heritage Centre, earmarked activities and promotional activities to which States Parties were also encouraged to contribute.

The Delegation of **Palestine** requested a clarification regarding the binding status of compulsory and voluntary contributions.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** indicated that the difference between assessed compulsory contributions and assessed voluntary contributions was set out in the World Heritage Convention in Article 16. She indicated that Article 16.1 relates to the assessed compulsory contributions and explains that the General Assembly of States Parties determines the percentage for the calculation of the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund. Article 16.2 and 16.4 relate to the assessed voluntary contributions. She clarified that, at the time of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, a State Party may declare not to be bound by Article 16.1, i.e the compulsory contribution, in such a case its assessed contribution should not be less than the contribution which the State Party should have paid if bound by Article 16.1.

The Delegation of **New Zealand** acknowledged the concern about the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and the difficult financial position of the Fund but mentioned that this was not the only Convention facing such challenges. It indicated not to be happy with increasing assessed contributions and concerned about the confusion between compulsory and voluntary contributions in the Draft Resolution. The Delegation indicated therefore that it will propose some amendments at the time of the adoption of the Draft Resolution.

The Delegation of **Sweden** indicated that the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund had been discussed for many years now and is still discussed in the World Heritage Committee, as well as in *ad hoc* working groups. The Delegation mentioned that the work should continue with this challenge creatively including through increased funds from partnerships and other innovative means of funding. The Delegation indicated that cost-saving measures should also be looked at. A number of proposals were presented to the World Heritage Committee on how to cut costs in Bonn, significant cuts to the budget have already been made that affect the World Heritage Centre, and therefore States parties and the Committee. The Delegation underlined that reducing the number of nominations for consideration each year is in its view a first and inevitable step that the Committee has to take and that Sweden was prepared to accept also other measures. It also commented on the annual contributions to the World Heritage Fund and on the problem that has remained unresolved for many years now: States Parties that do not pay their contribution at the beginning of the year or are in arrears, which causes a lot of problems for the World Heritage Centre and for the implementation of the Convention. The Delegation indicated that the Committee may take actions in this regard and reduce conditions related to the contributions. Similarly to the General Assembly which have sets conditions for the elections to the Committee – States Parties cannot run for the Committee if you have not paid your annual contribution – the Delegation suggested that he Committee could consider introducing similar conditions in its Rules of Procedure.

The Delegation of **Philippines** agreed that sustainability of the World Heritage Fund remained a longstanding concern. It appreciated the work that has been previously done to ameliorate the situation: a number of voluntary options have been proposed to States Parties but, unfortunately, very few States Parties have enacted any of these voluntary measures and thus the situation remains largely unchanged. The Delegation appreciated the proposal presented by the Secretariat but suggested it must be further studied. It further noted that this was raising an issue of equity; indeed States Parties with very small contributions were classified as one group or three groups and were encouraged to increase their voluntary unrestricted contributions more than 100%. On the other hand, States with perhaps more sites which benefitted largely from the system were requested to increase their contribution only by 50%. The Delegation also indicated that the *ad hoc* working group had a mandate to look at the issue of sustainability of the Fund and that its discussions and other recommendations that could emanate from it should be taken into account.

The Delegation of **Brazil** underlined the great importance of the World Heritage Fund which it is an essential instrument for the implementation of the 1972 Convention. It acknowledged the financial difficulties the Convention is facing while ways were to be found to prevent Heritage destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural property. The Delegation informed about the establishment of a category 2 centre named Lucia Costa in Rio de Janeiro whose mission is to build-capacity for heritage management in South American countries and in Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries in the region. The Delegation underlined that, unfortunately, due to economic constraints, it was not possible for Brazil at this moment to support decisions that increase its financial contribution to the Fund either compulsory or voluntary. It noted that his restriction applies to all Brazilian contributions to International Organizations.

The Delegation of **Serbia** indicated that the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund remained a cause of great concern that undermined the collective efforts to protect heritage at a time when heritage is increasingly threatened both by man and by nature. It underlined that it repeatedly called for the States Parties in cooperation with the Secretariat to formulate a comprehensive set of measures, which would address this issue. The Delegation insisted on the need to mobilize new resources of funding, on strengthening private-public partnership rather than on further cost-saving measures. While welcoming the proposal by the Secretariat contained in the working document, the Delegation underlined that it added to options adopted at the last session of the General Assembly of the States Parties. Similarly to the Philippines, it indicated to have some concerns about the equity issues with regard to this proposal and suggested that it should be further examined. Furthermore, the Delegation recalled the work of the *ad hoc* working group of the committee, which *inter alia* is discussing the issues of sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. The Delegation expressed the hope that the group will explore all possible avenues to address this important issue and indicated to look forward to its recommendations to be presented at the next session of the Committee in Istanbul.

The Delegation of **Estonia** underlined that the previous debates of the Committee and those of the General Assembly on this issue had resulted in a multitude of options that all aimed at improving the situation of the World Heritage Fund. It noted that any measure needed to be simple and straightforward in order to be successful and understood by the States Parties. The Delegation referred to the present proposal, which is meant to be fully voluntary for all, but also noted that there were other urgent matters, other UNESCO funds in need as the recently created Heritage Emergency Fund. In this regard, it informed that Estonia had decided to make a contribution to the Heritage Emergency Fund. The Delegation also indicated the need to take a close look at other measures and that, notably, the issue of limiting the number of nominations was a clear way of reducing the workload and a way to

send a clear message to States Parties regarding the reality of the situation.

La Délégation de la **Lituanie** souligne l'importance du versement des contributions au Fonds du patrimoine mondial en début d'année mais souligne que ceci peut poser un problème pour certains pays. La Délégation demande par ailleurs si, dans le cas de son pays, un paiement par avance serait possible.

The **Representative of the Bureau of Financial Management** confirmed that payment can be made anytime in advance. It clarified that, once contributions from a State Party are received, and if it is more than the State Party is supposed to pay: it is always maintained as an advance due to the country that has paid.

The Delegation of **Norway** supported the intervention by Sweden, which covered many of the concerns that Norway also has, as well as the intervention by Estonia regarding the Heritage Emergency Fund which is clearly one priority for the Organization in the near future. It indicated that Norway can support the Draft Resolution since it concerns unrestricted supplementary voluntary contributions, seeing this as a practical way forward. The Delegation underlined that, at the same time, serious priorities might be set notably regarding the management capacity of dealing with the high number of new nominations and State of conservation reports.

The Delegation of **Japan** expressed its country's sincere support to the World Heritage Convention and the concern underlined by many on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. It echoed some of the points made by previous speakers such as the Philippines, Sweden, Brazil, Serbia, Estonia and others regarding the continued discussion at the World Heritage Committee, in the form of the *ad hoc* working group, on these particular issues. It insisted on the fact that a strategy was needed to enhance extrabudgetary funding. Furthermore, it was of the opinion that the Draft Resolution proposed was limiting options to a few set of them. It therefore suggested to go back to the previous Resolution by of the General Assembly, so that - pending the discussion of the *ad hoc* working group - various options could be chosen by States Parties themselves to fund voluntarily the various aspects of the Convention and also the various perspectives with which they want to contribute on a voluntary basis.

The Delegation of **Argentina** strongly supported the intervention by Brazil. It underlined that raising the amount of contributions was not the good solution. Innovative solutions should be imagined and proposed together with the help of the Secretariat to face the new challenges.

The Delegation of **Colombia** echoed the concerns expressed by Serbia and Estonia in terms of the importance the Committee gives to the situation of the Fund and to the different options that the working group is studying on in this regard. The Delegation suggested that, for a future meeting of the Committee and/or the Assembly, a more specific document, more detailed, more concrete could be presented, that would allow to determine the real savings and concrete initiatives, such as reducing the number of nominations or differentiation in cycles of review of these proposals, reactive monitoring missions. The Delegation underlined that this would helped to make more appropriate decisions. Furthermore, the Delegation suggested to ask the Secretariat whether it would be possible to prepare a document presenting the types of initiatives/activities that could be considered a priority and which could be financed through voluntary contributions. It mentioned that it would be good to have a breakdown and details for upcoming meetings in this regard.

The Delegation of **India** indicated to fully support the World Heritage Convention, a flagship program of UNESCO. It underlined that the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund was among the biggest challenges the Convention faces as such; and that, because of lack of

resources, many important activities like capacity-building and international assistance had suffered. The Delegation informed that India was one of the countries that has provided extrabudgetary resources to the fund for International Assistance in the past and that have a category 2 centre in the natural category for capacity-building in the Asia Pacific region. It welcomed the proposal of the Secretariat to generate extra funds for the World Heritage Fund on a voluntary basis and considered this as an additional option from the ones adopted in the last General Assembly session. The Delegation noted that the issue of sustainability of the World Heritage Fund was on the agenda of the *ad hoc* working group and indicated that it was looking forward to further discussion within the group and the General Assembly so that complete measures can be proposed and adopted to insure sustainability of the Fund.

The Delegation of **Portugal** underlined also its full support to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and reaffirmed its full commitment to work with other States Parties in order to also address this issue of the funding. It welcomed the proposal by the Secretariat for this work, which it considered as an additional option with a very concrete framework for States Parties contributing on a voluntary basis. However, the Delegation indicated that the *ad hoc* working group was discussing this issue and that time should be given to this reflexion. The Delegation pointed out that the result of the findings and constructive recommendations of the *ad hoc* group should be examined by the next session of the Committee as well as by the next General Assembly.

The Delegation of **Poland** congratulated the Chairperson on his election as well as the Director of the World Heritage Centre for her appointment. It indicated to fully share the concerns regarding the sustainability of the Fund. While welcoming the proposal presented, it concurred with what was said by other States Parties; i.e that the issue needed to be analysed and studied in depth, notably by the *ad hoc* working group. The Delegation also underlined that reflexion on mobilizing other resources and how to increase resources of the Fund should be undertaken.

The Delegation of **Germany** insisted on the importance of the World Heritage Convention. It expressed its concerns about the ever-growing imbalance between the Fund and the requirements to ensure the implementation of the Convention and suggested that part of the additional funds in the 2016-2017 biennium should also be attributed to the World Heritage Centre. The Delegation indicated that Germany was not opposed to the proposal of the Secretariat, but that it could only pay additional contributions based on the availability of funds in the German Federal budget.

La Délégation du **Burkina Faso** remercie les Etats parties ayant soutenu sa candidature au Comité du patrimoine mondial. Elle indique également partager les préoccupations déjà exprimées quant à viabilité du Fonds, et estime, qu'à ce stade, l'Assemblée des États parties doit garder à l'esprit les objectifs poursuivis par le Fonds, notamment en terme de renforcement des capacités en faveur des pays en voie de développement. Elle suggère que le groupe de travail *ad hoc* poursuive les concertations pour parvenir à des solutions acceptables pour tous. La Délégation se déclare favorable à la recherche de moyens alternatifs pour le financement du Fonds plutôt qu'à une augmentation des contributions.

The Delegation of **Mexico** congratulated the Chairperson on his election. It welcomed the report by the Secretariat which gives a clear picture of the situation of the Fund. It indicated that the viability of the Fund will be addressed in details in the framework of the *ad hoc* working group. In this regard the Delegation indicated to share the preoccupations expressed by previous speakers regarding the increase of contributions and notably regarding fixing minimum amounts for voluntary contributions. It suggested to analyze all options that could be implemented. The Delegation welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to increase the resources, provided that the proposals be made applicable only voluntarily.

La Délégation du **Sénégal** se félicite des propositions contenues dans le projet présenté par le Secrétariat. Elle indique que tout ce qui concourt à la viabilité du Fonds est essentiel, le Fonds étant d'une importance stratégique pour les États africains en termes de renforcement des capacités mais également en appui à toutes les autres activités pour la sauvegarde et la protection du patrimoine. La Délégation soutient toutes les propositions visant à explorer d'autres possibilités et notamment, par des partenariats public-privé. Elle souligne l'importance d'intégrer ces propositions dans la réflexion du groupe de travail *ad hoc* dans la perspective de la prochaine session du Comité à Istanbul.

The Delegation of the **Republic of Korea** underlined its full support of the World Heritage Convention and the importance of addressing problems regarding the constant restraints on financial funds. It welcomed the Secretariat's proposal but suggested that it be considered as an additional option for the *ad hoc* working group to discuss thoroughly.

La Délégation de **Cuba** remercie les pays l'ayant soutenu pour l'élection de son pays au Comité du patrimoine mondial. Elle réaffirme son engagement vis à vis de la Convention, en particulier dans la situation complexe d'aujourd'hui. Elle se déclare préoccupée par la situation réelle du Fonds du patrimoine mondial aujourd'hui mais estime qu'il faut définir une stratégie à long terme examinant non seulement les options figurant dans le document proposé mais également en suscitant un débat beaucoup large et participatif de l'Assemblée et du Comité afin d'assurer la pérennité du Fonds. Elle souligne que toutes les activités réalisées avec le secteur privé et toutes les initiatives envisagées pour renforcer le Fonds devront reposer sur la nature intergouvernementale de la Convention et du Fonds. Elle se déclare préoccupée par le fait de définir un montant minimum pour les contributions volontaires et souligne qu'il existe d'autres mécanismes utilisés par l'UNESCO dans le contexte de la crise financière actuelle. La Délégation estime qu'il faut attendre les résultats des travaux du groupe de travail *ad hoc*, ce qui permettra d'étudier plusieurs options.

The Delegation of **Cabo Verde** congratulated the Chairperson on his election and reiterated its support to the Convention. It echoed the preoccupation expressed by previous speakers regarding the sustainability of the Fund. However, it concurred with the concern already expressed by the participants on the ratios used to determine the rate of increase in the contributions of the different categories of countries. The Delegation informed not to be able to support this proposal in its present terms, but considered it appropriate that this proposal be discussed more in-depth notably by the *ad hoc* working group that might identify creative alternatives.

La Délégation du **Maroc** exprime également sa préoccupation quant à la pérennité du Fonds du patrimoine mondial qui est primordiale pour la protection et la sauvegarde des sites et de toutes les actions connexes. Elle accueille favorablement la proposition du Secrétariat, mais considère que cette question doit être néanmoins étudiée de façon plus approfondie et notamment au sein du groupe de travail *ad hoc*. Elle propose qu'une solution consensuelle soit présentée à la prochaine session de l'Assemblée générale, dans 2 ans.

La Délégation de la **République tchèque** partage les préoccupations exprimées quant à la pérennité du Fonds du patrimoine mondial et ce qui a été dit par les intervenants précédents, notamment par le Portugal. Elle est d'avis de laisser plus de temps au groupe de travail *ad hoc* pour présenter des options possibles à la prochaine session du Comité du patrimoine mondial.

The Delegation of **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** congratulated the Chairperson on his election and echoed the points made by Brazil and Argentina and other Delegations. It expressed its concern about the financial constraints faced by the Convention. It noted

that, as this was mentioned by Japan, the decision of the 19th General Assembly proposed many options, but that very little was done since these two years. The Delegation indicated that therefore, it will have difficulties to apply the decision proposed today and agreed with Serbia and Japan on the need to determine a fundraising strategy as well as a strategy with the private sector, as this was done by other Conventions.

The Delegation of **Singapore** shared the concern expressed by previous speakers regarding the long-term sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. It noted that there were advantages to have voluntary contributions but that the window for voluntary contributions had been opened already for several decades in this forum and other fora. The Delegation underlined that the question of contributions was a very sensitive one.

The Delegation of **Indonesia** congratulated the Chairperson on his election and Mrs Rössler for her appointment as Director to the World Heritage Centre. It also thanked the States Parties for having supported the candidature of its country to the Committee. Regarding the issue of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund, the Delegation indicated its willingness to work in cooperation with the *ad hoc* working group to decide and come up with the best solution for all on the short and long-term.

The **Representative of IUCN** gave a few remarks on behalf of all three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee: IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM. First of all, they congratulated Dr Rössler on her appointment as Director to the World Heritage Centre. Regarding the ongoing debate, the Advisory Bodies underlined that the World Heritage Fund was important but was one component of the resources that are mobilized for the Convention and that there was a worrying evolution in the overall budget, where less and less funding was available for what the General Assembly has set as the priority for the Convention: conservation of World Heritage sites. They also noted that the World Heritage Fund was a crucial part of how the Convention operates and that its challenges were affecting the work of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. They underlined the mismatch between the requested workload and the available budget and that the only choice was to increase the budget or reduce the amount of work to get to a match. They furthermore noted that there was an existing set of requests for work from the existing statutory work and indicated that the most challenged was firstly, the increasing requests for the upstream support and advice and secondly, the requests for dialogue and increased conversation and attention to solving solutions during the evaluation of nominations, in particular because these were requests with budget implications. They noted also the mismatch between the large amount of costs involved in preparing nominations and the relatively small amount of resources that needed to generate upstream support. They underlined that the second challenge for the upstream process was that, without adequate funding, this service would only be available to those with the capacity to pay. Furthermore, they indicated their availability to discuss further how the capacity-building strategy in particular could be better resourced and funded for the future.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** thanked all the States Parties for their comments and also all of those that had contributed since the last decision of the General Assembly. However, she recalled that, already since 2008, different options were presented at each General Assembly and each World Heritage Committee without encouraging results. She also indicated that the World Heritage Centre has suffered twice of a reduction of the Regular Programme and the reduction of the World Heritage Fund. Regarding the Heritage Emergency Fund, she noted that a great amount of it would certainly also go to World Heritage sites. The Director furthermore underlined that a fundraising strategy existed and that it was presented to the World Heritage Committee. She noted also that the Convention has nearly reached universality and that there were little chance to get a higher amount of contributions from new countries into the World Heritage Fund in the future. She referred to

the concerns expressed regarding the options, and indicated the Secretariat's readiness to present again all the options to the *ad hoc* working group. However, she also referred to decision **39 COM 15** of the Committee by which the Committee expressed deep concerns about the resources available. She informed that the Secretariat will provide an analysis on the financial operational implications on some of the issues mentioned on nominations and state of conservation. The Director concluded by indicating that the Secretariat was looking forward to receiving funding for the World Heritage Fund for some of the options which were already presented to States Parties.

The Chairperson turned to the adoption of the Draft Resolution. After a lengthy debate, it was decided to amend the Draft Resolution to recall the World Heritage Committee Decisions **38 COM 13, 39 COM 11 and 39 COM 13A** regarding the mandate of the *ad hoc* working group of the World Heritage Committee to further discuss and make recommendations inter alia on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. Furthermore, it was also decided to indicate that the General Assembly was taking note of the Secretariat's proposal in Document WHC-15/20.GA/8 and that it invited the *ad hoc* working group to further examine it, in accordance with its mandate. It was also decided to note the financial difficulties of the World Heritage Fund as well as to recall that, in this regard, the assessed annual contributions to the World Heritage Fund are a legal obligation. Moreover, the General Assembly reiterated the plea of the World Heritage Committee to States Parties to pay their assessed annual contributions by 31 January in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the activities financed by the World Heritage Fund, and decided to consider, at its next session, potential measures concerning arrears. Finally, the General Assembly decided to include, on the agenda of its next session, proposals by the *ad hoc* working group of the World Heritage Committee on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund following its discussion at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 8** was adopted as amended

The Chairperson closed **Item 8** of the Agenda.

SECOND DAY – Thursday, 19 November 2015

FOURTH MEETING

3 pm – 7 pm

Chairperson : H.E. Mr. MORAES CABRAL (Portugal)

ITEM 9. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST: REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 19 GA 9

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/9

Draft Resolution: 20 GA 9

The **Chairperson** opened the afternoon session to examine Item 9 and gave the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre.

The Director of the World Heritage Centre presented a brief introduction of the Global Strategy and of the past Resolutions by the General Assembly and by the Committee. She informed that the Auditors were available if there in case of questions from the States Parties.

The Delegation of **Sweden** thanked the World Heritage Centre for its report on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Global Strategy, and praised its Strategic Action Plan. It commented on two of the recommendations that remain partially unimplemented: the recommendation regarding conflict of interests on nominations submitted by Committee Members during their term of office and the recommendation on intervention by States Parties on nominations and state of conservation reports that concerns their own properties. While underlying the changes made in Bonn to the Rules of Procedure, the Delegation indicated that it was of the opinion that more could be done in this regard. It noted that the Committee had decided to encourage Members of the Committee to refrain from nominating sites during their term. The Delegation pointed out that the alternative suggestion made in the evaluation - to suspend the examination of the nomination as long as the States Parties concerned are Members of the Committee - was a possibility. It suggested that the General Assembly propose to the Committee to take into account such a viable solution. The Delegation further underlined that a less restrictive alternative could also be that States Parties, in their candidatures to the World Heritage Committee, declare whether they intend to nominate properties during their tenure on the World Heritage Committee.

The Delegation of **Estonia** indicated that it should be essential to know the intention of the members of the Committee regarding nomination they may present during their mandate.

La Déléation du **Burkina Faso** exprime sa réserve quant à l'interdiction faite aux Etats parties de présenter un site pendant leur mandat et se demande quel sort sera réservé aux Etats parties devenus membres alors qu'ils avaient déjà présenté un bien dont le processus d'examen est en cours. Elle considère qu'une telle restriction ne doit pas être obligatoire.

Le **Président** signale que cette question très délicate a déjà été abordée à de nombreuses reprises et que de nombreuses suggestions ont été faites à cet égard. Il estime toutefois que cela doit être géré sur une base volontaire et qu'on ne peut pas l'imposer. Si un Etat est élu membre du Comité et a un dossier d'inscription en cours, il lui incombe de décider ce qu'il

veut faire. Il souligne l'exemple de son pays qui s'est engagé à ne pas présenter de candidature durant son mandat au Comité. Le Président assure qu'il a pris bonne note de la suggestion de la Suède soutenue par l'Estonie.

The Delegation of **Sweden** indicated that States Parties should keep in mind the possibility to indicate, at the time of their candidature, their intention or not to present a nomination, but that this has not to be reflected in the Draft Resolution at this point.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 9** was approved.

The Chairperson closed **Item 9** of the Agenda.

ITEM 11. FOLLOW-UP TO THE AUDIT OF THE GOVERNANCE OF UNESCO AND DEPENDENT FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND ENTITIES

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/11

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 11**

The Representative of the External Auditor being present in the Room, **the Chairperson** suggested to examine Item 11 before Item 10. This was agreed by the Room and the Chairperson gave the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre to briefly introduce Item 11.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** recalled that the the 37th session of the General Conference requested the External Auditor to conduct an audit of the governance of UNESCO. As requested by Resolution 37 C/96, a Self-Assessment Questionnaire was circulated to the Chairpersons of the governing entities of the World Heritage Convention, Committee and General Assembly. The finalization of the self-assessments and the interim report was completed in February/Mars 2015 and discussed by the 196th and 197th session of the Executive Board. By Decision 197 EX/28 and 44, the Executive Board proposed to create an open-ended working group to further examine the final audit report on the governance of UNESCO and the dependent funds, programmes and entities. The Director indicated that the Representative of the External Auditor may wish to give further information in this regard if need be.

Le **Représentant de l'Auditeur externe** indique ne pas avoir de commentaires particuliers à ce stade.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 11** was adopted.

The **Chairperson** closed Item 11 of the Agenda.

ITEM 10. AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON WORKING METHODS OF THE EVALUATION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF NOMINATION: FOLLOW-UP TO DECISION 39 COM 13A

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/10

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 10**

The **Chairperson** indicated that this item concerned the work of the *ad hoc* working group established by the Committee in 2014 to examine issues related to working methods of the

evaluation and the decision-making process of nomination. He recalled that the last session of the World Heritage Committee examined the outcomes of this group and recommended that this item be integrated in the Agenda of our present session. He gave the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre to introduce briefly this item.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** indicated that Document 10 presented the information on the *ad hoc* working group, which was originally established by, decision 38 COM 13, to examine issues related to working methods of the evaluation and the decision-making process of nomination, among others. She recalled that the outcomes of the *ad hoc* working group, which was chaired by the Chairperson of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, were presented to the Committee in June 2015. She underlined that the Committee decided to extend the mandate of the *ad hoc* working group first in its composition by one extra regional group representative who is not a member of World Heritage Committee and by the fact that this group, convened by Turkey, will further discuss and make recommendations on paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines and on the sustainability of the Fund. She indicated also that the Committee decided to suggest that this session of the General Assembly discuss the recommendations of the *ad hoc* working group chaired by Turkey and she therefore suggested to give the floor to the Ambassador of Turkey.

The **Chairperson** gave the floor to the Ambassador of Turkey.

The Ambassador of **Turkey** congratulated the Chairperson on his election as well as Mrs Rössler for her recent appointment to the post of Director of the World Heritage Centre. He also welcomed the new elected members of the World Heritage Committee and thanked the outgoing members for their fruitful collaboration and contributions. He underlined that Turkey, as the forthcoming host of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, was looking very much forward to the continuing work and innovative deliberations of the States Parties in the *ad hoc* working group to finalize - if possible - and add - if necessary - new recommendations on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. The Ambassador indicated that the working group had an informal session on 10 September 2105 ant that, in order to insure broader representation, all Committee members were invited to that session, which also included representatives from the Secretariat and Advisory Bodies. He further informed that the group decided to wait until this very session of the General Assembly so that the new members of the Heritage Committee can also properly take their place in the *ad hoc* working group. He noted that, the group – as decided in Bonn - was now more representative with the inclusion of one additional non-committee member from the States Parties for each electoral group. He informed that the group requested the Secretariat to prepare analytical reports and briefing papers on the budgetary situation and that those documents had been provided by the Secretariat subsequently. He noted also that the group requested from the Advisory Bodies a comprehensive briefing on their operational issues and cost of activities and that such a briefing will be organized after the General Assembly. The Ambassador of Turkey informed that the non-committee members of the *adhoc* working group who attended the meeting were the Netherlands for Group I, Serbia for Group II, China for Group IV and Palestine for Group Vb. The Representatives for Group III and Group Va had not been designated yet. He indicated that one Delegation brought up a request to also take up paragraph 68 of the Operational guidelines in the *ad hoc* working group. However, there was broad agreement among members that the group should primarily focus on its mandate, namely, paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines. He informed that the next *ad hoc* working group meeting will be convened in December 2016 and will continue its deliberations in 2016 in view of the preparation of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee. The Ambassador noted that the *ad hoc* working group was looking forward to constructive and innovative ideas as well as proposals keeping in mind the findings and recommendations of the group and committee's early decisions in light of the reports

submitted to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn. He also insisted on the fact that the working group was willing to proceed in a productive working relationship and an inclusive approach to reach a consensual, reformist and sustainable outcome for Istanbul. He informed also that Turkey was of the opinion that the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee would be an innovative one opening new horizons on the Convention bringing more visibility, prestige and effectiveness at the global scene to UNESCO.

The **Chairperson** thanked the Ambassador of Turkey for his intervention. He noted that there were amendments on the Resolution submitted by several States Parties, and gave the floor to the Delegation of China.

The Delegation of **China** recalled the conclusions of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee noting that the recommendations regarding improvements of the decision making process were constructive and rational. It indicated that China was satisfied that the report included recommendations to improve the geographic balance and to strengthen transparency in the selection of external experts. It welcomes the efforts of the Advisory Bodies in taking measures to improve consultations with States Parties. Concerning the selection of experts, the Delegation underlined the need to push for geographical balance, especially in the expert committees for experience more varied so that all sorts of heritage can be covered. It also suggested that the dialogue between the Advisory Bodies and the States Parties include a reflection on best practices. It informed that China would like the Advisory Bodies to strengthen their cooperation with States Parties in order to reinforce the mechanisms for exchanging best practices. The Delegation finally supported reforms in decision-making process and in the inscription process.

The Delegation of **Colombia** welcomed the efforts and results achieved by the working group and wishes to inform the General Assembly that, within the GRULAC, it was decided that Colombia would be the State Party, non-member of the Committee, present in the working group. The Delegation indicated that Turkey will be officially informed.

The Delegation of **Tanzania** informed the General Assembly that Tanzania and Zimbabwe will attend the ad hoc working group and that Senegal would be the State Party, non-member of the Committee, present in the working group.

The **Chairperson** proceeded with the adoption of the Draft Resolution and gave the floor to the Rapporteur in this regard.

The **Rapporteur** recalled that no Draft Resolution was included in the working Document and that a text of a Draft Resolution had been presented by India, Philippines, Serbia and Turkey. He read out the text of the proposed Draft Resolution which notably welcomed the extension of the mandate of the *ad hoc* working group to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 of the Guidelines as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. In the Draft Resolution, the General Assembly also took note of the Oral Report of the Chairperson of the *ad hoc* working group and requested the group to take into account the discussions held at the present session of the General Assembly in its deliberations.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 10** was adopted.

The Chairperson closed **Item 10** of the Agenda.

ITEM 12. FUTURE OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION* OUTCOMES AND PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2012-2022

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/12

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 12**

The **Chairperson** gave the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre to introduce Item 12 of the Agenda concerning the Future of the World Heritage Convention.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** recalled that the vision of the future of the World Heritage Convention and the Strategic Action Plan were adopted during the 18th session of the General Assembly (2011) notably in view of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention which took place in 2012. She indicated that the Committee, at its 35th session in 2011, pointed out the need to develop an implementation plan to operationalize the priorities detailed in the draft strategic action plan and vision and requested the Centre to work with the Advisory Bodies to develop a draft implementation plan. A progress report of this matter was submitted to the General Assembly in 2013, which welcomed the progress in the performance and application of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan and requested that the Secretariat presents an update to this session. The Director therefore underlined that the Working Document presented to this session of the General Assembly consisted of the updated tables specifying the implementation status of the activities since the 19th session.

The Draft Resolution **20 GA 12** was adopted.

The Chairperson closed **Item 12** of the Agenda.

ITEM 13 WORLD HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/13
WHC-15/20.GA/INF.13

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 13**

The **Chairperson** gave the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre to briefly introduce Item 12 concerning Sustainable Development.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** indicated that this document introduced the draft policy aiming at integrating a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention. She underlined that this was one of the major item of this General Assembly. She recalled the consultation process and preparation of the first Draft of the policy document which was presented to the 38th session of the Committee in 2014 and of which a more complete version was submitted for the World Heritage Committee's consideration at the 39th session in Bonn in July 2015.

The Representative of the **Secretariat** underlined that the aim of this policy was not to change the mandate of the Convention, but to apply a sort of sustainable development lens to the process of the Convention across all of its dimensions. He pointed out that this sensitiveness to sustainable development will reinforce the effectiveness of the Convention

in conserving Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in the long term. He was noted that protecting World Heritage contributed in itself to important aspects of Sustainable Development, for example places of exceptional biodiversity, landmarks contributing to social cohesion and economic development. He noted that Sustainable Development was larger than World Heritage and that there was a greater potential to contribute to Sustainable Development without protecting OUV. He underscored the importance of respecting human rights and paying attention to environmental impacts. The Representative of the Secretariat underlined that the draft policy was not containing any new concept or proposal that is not already agreed upon by the United Nations and noted that the content of the Policy was already included in broader decisions adopted by UNESCO. He stated that this policy framework also linked the 1972 Convention with other multilateral frameworks; and that various documents had been drawn on to develop this policy, the most important reference being the 2030 Agenda. He added that one significant aspect of this policy was that it foresees a platform for exchange and synergy among UNESCO Conventions and other multilateral instruments. Furthermore, he noted that changes will be necessary to the Operational Guidelines to reflect the application of this Policy. Finally, he encouraged the States Parties to widely disseminate the policy and informed the Assembly that a table with comments by States Parties and Secretariat's responses was accessible through the World Heritage Centre web site. He draw the attention on the fact that the policy document was revised based on this document as well as on the comments received.

The Delegation of **Brazil** conveyed its support to the draft policy proposed, underlining that the integration of a sustainable development perspective will help to improve the processes of the World Heritage Convention. It indicated that it would like to propose some small amendments to the Policy to ensure more consistency with the 2030 Agenda.

La Délégation de la **France** remercie le Secrétariat pour ce projet politique complet et de qualité et pour la méthode inclusive utilisée dans l'élaboration de ce document. Elle souligne que le rôle essentiel de la culture a été réaffirmé très fortement par la communauté internationale dans l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable. La Délégation indique que le patrimoine mondial est un héritage qui doit être transmis aux générations à venir dans le cadre d'un développement durable maîtrisé. Elle note que, dans ce contexte, les sites du patrimoine mondial peuvent offrir un terrain d'essai ou des approches tout à fait novatrices en matière de développement durable.

The Delegation of **Poland** thanked the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for their longstanding engagement of integrating World Heritage into wider development strategies. It pointed out that the integration of a Sustainable Development perspective in the World Heritage Convention is an important initiative and will change the perception of heritage significance among societies. Moreover, it underlined that the adoption of this policy would significantly ensure the long-term protection of World Heritage. Finally, the Delegation supported the revised version of the policy document and agreed that it should be included in Operational Guidelines.

La Délégation de la **Côte d'Ivoire** se félicite de l'approche adoptée par le Centre du patrimoine mondial. Elle se réfère à un exemple précis d'intégration du développement durable dans la cadre de la conservation d'un site du patrimoine mondial dans son pays qui a démontré que cette approche est très productive.

The Delegation of **Philippines** commended the Secretariat on the Policy Document noting that it is was milestone to mainstream the World Heritage Convention into the 2030 Agenda. It noted also noted that it however presented more challenges to peace and development concerns. Stating that the policy would strengthen review and monitoring mechanisms, he

pointed out that it may be a burden on States Parties, which may lead to frustration or weaken the representativeness of the Convention; therefore, he encouraged the development of best practices of the application of Sustainable Development principles at World Heritage properties.

The Delegation of **Peru** congratulated the Secretariat on the Draft Policy that clearly established the link between heritage and sustainable development. It supported the proposal of amendment put forward by Brazil on Agenda 2030 in the Draft Resolution.

The Delegation of **United States of America** joined the other speakers in complimenting this comprehensive and thorough examination of the link between sustainable development and the Convention. The representative questioned whether the General Assembly is ready to adopt the Policy at this point or whether it needs to be further developed, for example by encouraging more States Parties interventions. He said that specific comments from the USA will be made when going through the Draft Resolution paragraph by paragraph.

The Delegation of **Barbados** commended the development of this Policy indicating that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have no choice but to combine these two things. It pointed out that they will help the management of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Delegation of **New Zealand** recognized the work of expert group in integrating this Sustainable Development perspective into the World Heritage Convention. It noted that it was coherent without being overly cumbersome, and fully supported this policy. It indicated that New Zealand had experience in balancing conservation and development needs through legislation and offered to share their experience with other Delegations.

The Delegation of **Turkey** noted that the integration of a Sustainable Development perspective could only be successful through a holistic approach. Acknowledging that Climate change is a global challenge to World Heritage sites, it recommended that Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies also need to be taken into consideration in the policy. It stated that the Delegation of Turkey fully supported the draft document and considers that it provided important guidance. Lastly, it congratulated the Secretariat for the documentation and said he looked forward to the implementation process.

The Delegation of **Sweden** supported the adoption of the policy. It noted that work was currently underway to develop guidelines for its implementation, but did not consider that this should prevent or delay the adoption of the policy today, noting that the guidelines can still be examined and revised.

The **Chairperson** proceeded with the adoption paragraph by paragraph of the Draft Resolution. The Draft Resolution was adopted as amended adopting the revised Policy document as a first step toward the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the implementation processes of the Convention. The General Assembly also invited the World Heritage Centre and States Parties to continue engagement through an ongoing consultation process involving all stakeholders to enrich the policy document and requested an update on progress made to be presented to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The **Chairperson** closed **Item 13** of the Agenda.

ITEM 14. REFLECTION ON THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE (2015-2017)

Documents: WHC-15/20.GA/14
WHC-15/20.GA/INF.14

Draft Resolution: **20 GA 14**

The **Chairperson** gave the floor to the Representative of the Secretariat who introduced this item.

The **Representative of the Secretariat** recalled that the World Heritage Committee, at its 39th session, examined an item concerning periodic reporting and more specifically, the reflection on periodic reporting for the completion of the second cycle of periodic reporting which ended with the adoption of the report concerning the region of Europe and the action plan, the Helsinki Action Plan of the Europe region. The Committee at this session decided to suspend the periodic reporting cycle with two years and launch a reflection period. The Committee took a couple of decisions outlining the reflection process and also requested the World Heritage Centre to bring this matter to the attention of the General Assembly. The Decision by the Committee included the launch of a reflection service to gather feedback from States Parties regarding the periodic reporting process, establishment of a small periodic reporting expert working group to provide recommendations for improving the periodic reporting process. It also referred to organization of reflection meetings concerning this process and invited States Parties to contribute towards the organizational meetings or to invite such meetings. The Representative of the Secretariat indicated also that a short progress report will be presented to the 40th session of the Committee and that the 41st session should examine the updated questionnaire. The Representative of the Secretariat presented the work undertaken by the Centre since the 39th session of the Committee and notably the work on the periodic reporting reflection survey which was actually requested by the States Parties to gather the opinions and feedback from States Parties. She indicated that this the survey was launched in October 2015 and that it invited States Parties to comment on a number of topics: relevance and objectives of periodic reporting, periodicity, training and guidance, format and content, use of data, periodic reporting web platform, financial resources and global World Heritage report. She indicated that, due to financial constraints, innovative way of working had to be identified and that the work was done on a user-friendly survey online, a Google format linked to the UNESCO platform. She underlined that this online survey was launched on 27 October 2015 and that the deadline for receiving feedback from States Parties was 27 November. The Representative of the Secretariat informed also about the periodic reporting expert group and about the purpose, the objectives, the terms of reference of the group which would include mainly reviewing the outcomes of the survey and developing recommendations for improvement regarding the process, relevance of the objectives, use and analysis of data, content and format. She also referred to the fact that the Committee at its 39th session also made a reference to the resources needed for the reflection period and indicated that, considering the actual financial constraints, extrabudgetary resources by States Parties towards insuring a proper reflection period would be much appreciated. She mentioned that in particular, the World Heritage Centre would like to invite States Parties to consider contributing towards the coordination and expertise of the World Heritage Centre and the reflection meetings.

The Delegation of **Perou** underlined that the consideration of periodic reports had the advantage to show progress and assets protection; and it also alerts in terms of hazards and risks. In this regard, it referred to a case in Perou involving actions by an NGO on a world

heritage site and underlined the need to draft and implement a code of conduct for the cultural and natural heritage that clearly defines the lines for heritage preservation, line of ethical conduct, respect for cultural expressions and diversity of the NGOs and other non-state actors including people.

La Délégation de **Cuba** souligne que les autorités cubaines accordent beaucoup d'importance à tous les mécanismes et processus de responsabilisation sur la mise en œuvre des Conventions de l'UNESCO et des autres organisations des Nations Unies. Elle souligne que c'est là, la responsabilité des États membres et que c'est également un espace où ces États peuvent présenter les informations et les activités qu'ils réalisent afin de mettre en œuvre la Convention. Elle précise que tout processus de réflexion sur les rapports périodiques devra tenir compte de la situation actuelle sur le plan de la préservation et de la conservation du patrimoine et de tous les efforts déployés par l'UNESCO afin de renforcer son rôle pour la conservation de ces biens.

The Delegation of **Estonia** welcomed the reflection period and thanked the Secretariat for the information document provided that already offers a very clear reflection on the process that will be useful for the expert group to be convened soon. It suggested to focus on how to interpret and how to analyse the rich information collected during each cycle, how to store it in a format that will be of use at the latest stage and how to link it, for instance to a state of conservation database. The Delegation also underlined that, given the clear message that the Centre will not be able to organize the exercise in the same manner during the next cycles and provide the same level of service and assistance to the States Parties if the financial situation remains as it is, the need to consider if the periodicity of the periodic reporting exercise is still appropriate should be taken into account.

The Delegation of **South Africa** welcomed the report and underlined the importance of the the reflection period to improve the periodic reporting exercise. It requested the Secretariat to consider the possibility of an extension of the Deadline for fill in the questionnaire.

The Representative of the Secretariat indicated that it will explore if an extension of one week is possible. Referring to the point raised by Estonia, she indicated to have included a question in the survey concerning periodicity and would be looking forward to what the feedback of States Parties on this particular question will be.

The Delegation of the **Czech Republic** welcomed the two-year gap between the first and second periodic reporting and more time for follow-up on the national level before the first cycle starts. It also indicated to consider periodic reporting as a good opportunity to strengthen networking on both national and international levels. The Delegation pointed out that it would prefer and appreciate some deeper glossary of risk factors as a number of questions difficult are difficult.

The Representative of the Secretariat indicated that the glossary of risk factors would certainly be one of the topics to be discussed by the expert group and in consultation meetings in the future.

La Délégation de l'**Angola** souscrit parfaitement à cette période de réflexion et souligne son importance dans la mesure où cela permettrait de mesurer la pertinence des outils qui sont actuellement utilisés et de voir si, dans un futur bref, ils peuvent être réajustés. La Délégation remercie également les États parties qui ont appuyé sa candidature au Comité du patrimoine mondial.

Le Projet de Résolution **20 GA 14** est adopté.

Le Président clos le **point 14** à l'ordre du jour.

ITEM 15. OTHER BUSINESS

No document

La Délégation de **Palestine** informe que la question qu'elle souhaitait soulever sous ce point n'est plus d'actualité. Elle saisit cette occasion pour réaffirmer son engagement à appliquer la Convention. Elle remercie le bureau de l'UNESCO à Ramallah et le Comité du patrimoine à Paris à travers ses dirigeants et tous ses employés pour toutes les activités entreprises en Palestine et pour les conseils prodigués.

Before closing the session, the **Chairperson** gave the floor to the **Mr Hassan Wario Arero, Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts of Kenya**.

The Minister congratulated the Chairperson on his election. He welcomed the manual, World Heritage and Climate Change and underlined that natural heritage is a key aspect of environmental conservation and hence, stabilization of the world's climate equilibrium. He indicated to believe that Member States will support the efforts of the Secretariat as well as contributing to the upcoming COP21. The Minister referred to the shocking terrorists attacks in Paris, he mentioned in this regard that the problem of terrorism was a global problem that Kenya is well aware of. He therefore expressed Kenya's solidarity with France and other Member States facing this challenge. The Minister recalled that, in Bonn, the concerted efforts of Member States to tackle the threat of terrorism and its patrimonial heritage sites were witnessed. Furthermore the Minister, indicated that the link between heritage conservation and sustainable development is key and critical to the World Heritage Committee, several countries especially in Africa and other developing countries being at crossroads at balancing development and heritage conservation. To this end, the Minister urged Member States to heighten efforts to strengthen field offices and allocate enough resources so as to be able to carry this important Convention forward. Moreover, the Minister congratulated all newly elected committee members. In this regard, he welcomed the excellent work of the open-ended working group on the revision of the Rules of Procedure. The Minister finally reiterated Kenya's commitment to the continued implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its ideals.

Before closing the session and giving the floor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre, the **Chairperson** thanked everyone for the good cooperation and understanding which allowed to proceed with the works in a swift, efficient and credible way. The Chairperson also thanked the Secretariat and all those involved on this side of the barricade as well as the interpreters for their very professional and demanding work.

The **Director of the World Heritage Centre** made some personal remarks indicating that it was her first General Assembly as a Director. She congratulated the new members of the World Heritage Committee underlining the very responsible task they were entrusted with. She assured them of the fact that World Heritage Centre will do everything in its power to assist them in their task. She referred to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and to the 43rd anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. She underlined that 191 States Parties out of 195 Member States of UNESCO have ratified this Convention. She also underlined that 2015 was a difficult year with many threats to world heritage as well as massive destructions. The Director noted that the COP21 will take place in Paris at the end of the month and that side events on World Heritage will be organized in this regard. She informed also that, following the policy on climate change adopted by the General Assembly in 2008, a special issue of the World Heritage Review on climate change is now available. Finally, she thanked each and every State Party for the input and cooperation during this General Assembly and

underlined the great progress with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Policy. She reaffirmed that the Convention of 1972 remained UNESCO's flagship and that all the challenges in the future should be addressed jointly. She finally thanked the Chairperson for his effective Chairmanship. The Director indicated that working with him as well as with the Rapporteur from Brazil was a real pleasure. She also addressed special thanks to the World Heritage Centre staff.

The **Chairperson** closed the 20th session of the General assembly of States Parties.