



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

# World Heritage

# 40 COM

**WHC/16/40.COM/13A**

**Paris, 10 June 2016**

**Original: English**

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

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

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Fortieth session**

**Istanbul, Turkey  
10 - 20 July 2016**

**Item 13 of the Agenda: Follow-up to Recommendations of Evaluations and Audits on Working Methods and outcomes of the ad-hoc Working Group**

**13A. Follow-up to Recommendations of Evaluations and Audits on Working Methods: Outcomes of the ad-hoc Working Group**

## **SUMMARY**

By Decision **38 COM 13**, the World Heritage Committee established an ad-hoc working group to meet inter-sessionally, to examine the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination and to formulate its recommendations thereon.

By Decision **39 COM 13A**, the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session extended the mandate of the ad-hoc working group to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines* as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund.

This document presents the outcomes of the ad-hoc Working Group.

**Draft Decision:** *After having examined the outcomes of the ad-hoc Working Group, the World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt an appropriate Decision.*

## I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee noted that the growing number of nominations and inscriptions to the World Heritage List had increased not only the workload but also the financial burdens faced by Advisory Bodies. It further recognized the growing need by a significant number of States Parties for technical assistance and support in the preparation of nominations as well as during the inscription process.
2. In this regard, the Committee, by Decision **38 COM 13**, established an ad-hoc Working Group, to meet inter-sessionally, to examine the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination and to formulate its recommendations thereon.
3. The ad-hoc Working Group held several meetings during the course of 2014-2015 as per Decision **38 COM 13** and presented its outcomes to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015.
4. By Decision **39 COM 13A**, the World Heritage Committee, welcomed the reflections and recommendations of the ad-hoc Working Group with regard to the working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination and decided to extend its mandate to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines* as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund. It was also decided that the group will be convened by Turkey.

## II. OUTCOMES OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP

5. Under the Chairmanship of Turkey, the ad-hoc Working Group met 11 times during the course of 2015-2016 as per Decision **39 COM 13A**.
6. The outcomes of the discussion of the ad-hoc Working Group are annexed to the present document. The Committee may wish to take an appropriate decision following the examination of this report.

## III. DRAFT DECISION

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 13A**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/13A,
2. ....

**Ad-hoc Working Group extended by Decision 39 COM 13A of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee**

**Outcome Document**

The mandate of the Ad-hoc Working Group established by the 38<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014) has been extended at the 39th session (Bonn, 2015) by Decision **39 COM 13A** in order to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund.

The Chairmanship of the Group has been assumed by Turkey. The composition of the Group was slightly amended and in addition to two Committee members from each regional group, a third regional group representative who is not a member of the World Heritage Committee has been added. Including the additional members, the Group comprised Finland, Netherlands, Turkey, Poland, Croatia, Serbia; Jamaica, Peru, Colombia; Philippines, Republic of Korea, China; Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Senegal; Lebanon, Tunisia and Palestine. Representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) have been invited to attend the sessions when needed. Their participation enriched the deliberations with comments and contributions, also in the form of non-papers. The Group held 11 meetings on 10 September 2015, 15 December 2015, 29 January, 15 February, 18 February, 11 March, 31 March, 27 April, 12 May, 24 May, 27 May 2016. The tenth meeting on 24 May 2016 was organized by the chair with open-ended participation from all States Parties, as a consultative informal session.

The Group deliberated upon proposals raised by its members, as well as the World Heritage Center and Advisory Bodies as regards the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and paragraph 61.

The Working Group reached a general consensus on the following recommendations:

**A. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND**

**1. Proposals by the Secretariat at 19th and 20th General Assembly**

Ensuring a predictable and sustainable inflow of resources to the World Heritage Fund is of paramount importance. Among the proposals of the Secretariat, the Group recommends to the Committee to endorse options 1, 4 and 5 of Resolution **19 GA 8**, as they were found applicable alternatives presented to the 19th General Assembly, and also the proposal in the document WHC-15/20.GA/8 presented to the 20th General Assembly. The ad-hoc Group further recommends that the Committee strongly encourages all States Parties to voluntarily implement one of these proposals, to increase their assessed contributions to the World Heritage Fund.

**2. Allocation from the Regular Budget**

Recognizing the high profile and the flagship role that the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage occupies within the UNESCO system and to promote further the significance and relevance of preservation of cultural and natural heritage, the Group recommends that the Committee renews its appeal to the Executive

Board and the General Conference, in the light of the ongoing preparations of 39 C/5, to allocate more resources from the regular budget for more effective implementation of the *1972 Convention*.

### **3. Revision of the Fund-Raising Strategy**

After hearing a comprehensive briefing by the Secretariat, the Group decided to recommend to the Committee to revise the “Partnership Strategy” with a view to amending the modalities to include new tools, diversify resources and/or ensure more effective use of existing ones, i.e. through use of a professional fund raiser if funds are available, more effective use of social media, licensing, online donations, grants, developing membership schemes, crowdsourcing, strategic partnership with tourism sector and use of the UNESCO logo/emblem.

### **4. Organizing a Forum of Donors**

Group members reviewed the proposal by ICOMOS to convene a Forum of Donors session during Committee meetings. This forum is proposed to convene annually as a side event during Committee meetings to allow States Parties in need, to receive and evaluate offers of assistance from States Parties, foundations or organizations who can mobilize grants, donations or human resources, expertise, responding to the needs as may be identified in the SOC Reports, or through direct appeals in the form of nomination and/or conservation assistance. Group members are of the opinion that the idea of a Forum of Donors would fill a gap in the system, would attract [sustainable] additional resources, help address recurring conservation problems and open a window of opportunity to promote international cooperation. Ad-hoc Group members recommend, the idea to be further developed, and be included in the draft agenda of the 41st session of the Committee in 2017.

The Group underlines the “International Assistance Mechanism” as one of the most important tools of the *Convention* and the need to channel more resources to it. The Group also emphasizes that, the issue can be elaborated in further consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, with a view to integrating it to the International Assistance Mechanism including the Twinning concept for financing nominations.

### **5. Introduction of an Annual Fee for World Heritage Listed Properties on a Voluntary Basis**

The Ad-hoc Group recommends that the Committee initiates a consultation process and requests the Secretariat to send out a survey to States Parties, in order to verify the possibility of their local administrations in charge of management of inscribed sites, to pay an annual fee to the Fund, depending on their financial autonomy and capacity to pay and report back to the Committee. Depending on the outcome of this survey a recommendation can be made about including an annual fee.

### **6. Additional/Optional Protocol**

The preparation of an Additional/Optional Protocol to the *World Heritage Convention*, has been raised as one of the possible tools to help improving the sustainability of the Fund in the medium and long term, by providing legal ground for increased predictable contributions from States Parties. Since the statutory provision of the *1972 Convention* sets contributions to the World Heritage Fund at 1% of States Parties’ assessed contributions to UNESCO

regular budget, an additional/optional protocol could provide legal basis to those States Parties who would be in a position to increase their assessed contributions. Those who are not agreeable to an additional/optional protocol may continue implementing the Convention as it is.

Whether an additional/optional protocol, would be an effective tool to achieve sustainability of the Fund, and, besides funding; whether it is necessary to address any other aspects of the Convention through a protocol, needs to be further discussed by relevant UNESCO bodies.

Group members recommend to the Committee to start exploring whether there is broad consensus on the need to conclude an Additional/Optional Protocol to achieve sustainability of the Fund and further recommends that,

- The proposal to be reviewed by an ad-hoc Working Group of the World Heritage Committee;
- The issue be included on the draft agenda of the Committee's 41<sup>st</sup> session in 2017.

The Legal Advisor will be consulted throughout the process.

## **7. Measures to expedite payment of assessed contributions and arrears**

The Group discussed the issue and decided to recommend that States Parties with arrears should be encouraged, to expedite payments of their outstanding dues and assessed contributions. The Group thus recalls the decision of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Resolution **20 GA 8**, which stipulates that the issue of potential measures will be included in the agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in November 2017.

### **B. PARAGRAPH 61 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

The Group recommends, as a consensus formula, to reduce the yearly cap on nominations from 45 to 35, including deferred and referred nominations; and reduce yearly nominations per State Party from 2 to 1; on a trial basis, for a period of 4 years, starting as of 2 February 2018 (the reductions do not apply for nominations submitted until the 1 February 2018 deadline).

The Group also recommends to include the language proposed by the *Operational Guidelines* Working Group (39th session) on self-restraint (para c)x) as well as the amendments proposed by the Secretariat in (c)viii) and (c)ix).

In light of the discussions, the Ad-hoc Working Group proposes the following amendments to Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines:

#### *Proposed Amendments on **Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines***

**“61.** The Committee has decided to apply the following mechanism:

- a) examine ~~up to two~~ **one** complete nominations per State Party, ~~provided that at least one of such nominations concerns a natural property or a cultural landscape and,~~

b) set at ~~45~~ **35** the annual limit on the number of nominations it will review, inclusive of nominations deferred and referred by previous sessions of the Committee, extensions (except minor modifications of limits of the property), transboundary and serial nominations,

c) the following order of priorities will be applied in case the overall annual limit of ~~45~~ **35** nominations is exceeded:

i) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties with no properties inscribed on the List;

ii) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having up to 3 properties inscribed on the List,

iii) nominations of properties that have been previously excluded due to the annual limit of ~~45~~ **35** nominations and the application of these priorities,

iv) nominations of properties for natural heritage,

v) nominations of properties for mixed heritage,

vi) nominations of transboundary/transnational properties,

vii) nominations from States Parties in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean,

viii) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having ratified the *World Heritage Convention* during the last ~~ten~~ **twenty** years,

ix) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties that have not submitted nominations for ~~ten~~ **five** years or more,

***x) nominations of States Parties, former Members of the Committee, who accepted on a voluntary basis not to have a nomination reviewed by the Committee during their mandate. This priority will be applied for 4 years after the end of their mandate on the Committee,***

xi) when applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as a secondary factor to determine the priority between those nominations that would not be designated by the previous points.

d) the States Parties co-authors of a transboundary or transnational serial nomination can choose, amongst themselves and with a common understanding, the State Party which will be bearing this nomination; and this nomination can be registered exclusively within the ceiling of the bearing State Party.

This decision will be implemented on a trial basis for **4** years and takes effect on 2 February ~~2012~~ **2018**, in order to ensure a smooth transition period for all States Parties. The impact of this decision will be evaluated at the Committee's ~~39<sup>th</sup>~~ **46<sup>th</sup>** session (2015 ~~2021~~ **2022**)."

### **Criteria for Evaluation of Impact of Revised Paragraph 61**

The Group emphasizes the importance of setting out criteria to measure the impacts expected by the reductions applied to nominations and recommends that the 45<sup>th</sup> Committee includes an item to that end.

## **Extension of the Mandate of the Ad-hoc Group**

The Ad-hoc Working Group, also recommends to the Committee to consider possible extension of the mandate of the Group for one more year, with a view to enabling further deliberations on the necessity/feasibility of an Additional/Optional Protocol, the proposal to create a Forum of Donors; the revision of the Partnership Strategy and the budget. It is also recommended that the extended Working Group be composed of two Committee members, and two non-Committee members from each regional group, and at least two open-ended sessions be held to provide room for building broad consensus.